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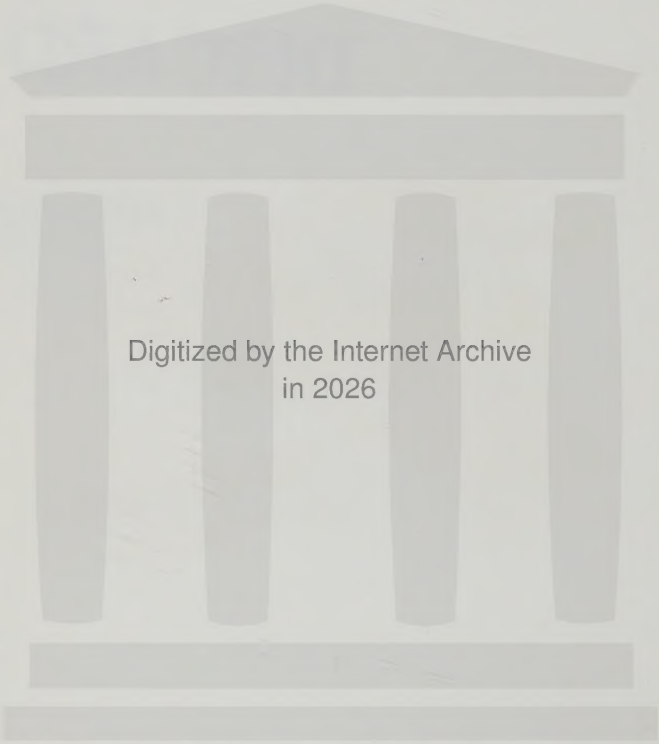
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THE MANOR
AND
MANORIAL RECORDS

SOWING

REAPING

THRESHING

SHEEP SHEARING

THE VILLAIN AT WORK

HARL. MS., 1892

THE MANOR
AND
MANORIAL RECORDS

BY
NATHANIEL J. HONE

WITH FIFTY-FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS

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THE MANOR AND MANORIAL RECORDS

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PREFACE

AT a time when we have but recently embarked on a new system of local government, which is yet, so to speak, on its trial, it may be of more than historical interest to recall the fact that the institutions of parish councils and the like are but the successors of an older system co-eval with the existence of England as a state, and to endeavour to realize, by the aid of existing records, the conditions under which generations of our forefathers passed their lives forming those habits of self-reliance and resourcefulness which have imprinted an imperial character on the race.

It has been well said by an authority[1] on the subject that "nearly all that is being urged as appertaining to the privileges of a newly created system of local government — local option, land allotment, county boards, and other important subjects — has always belonged to the local institutions, and has never been taken away from them by any legal or constitutional enactment," and that "most of the powers now proposed to be conferred as a blessing at the hands of this or that political party already exist, but have

[1] Gomme, *Literature of Local Institutions.*

been lying dormant and unused as portions of a social system which has become obsolete."

The familiar and rather high-sounding title of lord of the manor conveys but little practical meaning to the many, though it confers on the bearer a certain social status. The holder of such a position, having long since lost most of the great feudal privileges formerly attached to it, is apt to be considered in the popular imagination as a mere nominal survival.

The lord of the manor, however, even at the present day, is a real factor in local life. Parish and district councils, in questions constantly arising touching village greens, recreation grounds, commons and rights of way, find that they have to reckon with him in the exercise of their newly acquired powers, and have to adjust their claims in accordance with the old manorial rights enjoyed by him and his predecessors for centuries.

A manor has been defined as "a certain circuit of ground granted by the King to some baron or man of worth as an inheritance for him and his heirs, with the exercise of such jurisdiction within the said compass as the King saw fit to grant, and subject to the performance of such services and yearly rents as were by the grant required."[1] These magnates, the tenants in chief of the Crown, soon began to carve out smaller estates to be held of them by similar rents and services, the grantees becoming in turn lords of manors. The mesne or middle lords, following the example of

[1] Scargill-Bird, *Guide to the Public Records.*

those above them, granted out lesser estates, until the superior lords began to realize that they were losing their profits in respect of wardships, marriages, escheats, etc. This process of subinfeudation was checked by a provision in the Great Charter of 9 Henry III. "that no man should either grant or sell land without reserving sufficient to answer the demands of his lord." It was followed by the statute *Quia Emptores*, 18 Edward I., enacting "that in all sales and enfeoffments of land the feoffee shall hold the same, not of the immediate feoffor, but of the chief lord of the fee," subsequently to which no new manors were created.

In the following pages I have attempted to portray, for the general reader, the main features of the English manor, that institution which, under varying forms and circumstances, has existed among us from a period "whereunto the memory of man runneth not to the contrary" till the present day, an institution which, though somewhat impaired in vitality, is still a factor in our social organization. It is hoped that the selection of manorial documents, chiefly from original sources, may serve to illustrate the text. The Court Rolls of Letcombe Regis, Brightwaltham, and Addington are among the earliest which have been preserved to us. The extracts from Berkshire Court Rolls have already appeared in the *Berks Arch. Journal*, vol. iii. (1893); being translations from originals among the Duchy of Lancaster Series. The Court Rolls of Gnossall, Staffs, and those of Taynton, Oxon, were placed at my

disposal by their respective owners. The Extent and *Compoti* of the Bicester Manors are translations from Kennet's *Parochial Antiquities*. The extracts from the Glastonbury Custumals, from a volume published by the Somerset Record Society; and the Extent of Warkworth, Northumberland, an early example of this class of document, from the original at the Public Record Office.

It is believed that the lists of Court Rolls in various depositories will be useful to the local historian and genealogist, as also to members of the legal profession. A brief table of the elliptical phrases constantly recurring in Court Rolls may be of assistance to those commencing the study of these documents. It will be obvious to all readers who are conversant with manorial studies that I have drawn freely from contemporary sources, as well as those of an earlier date, my endeavour having been to present in a compendious form the result of more laborious researches in this field of literature. For those who wish to go more deeply into the subject, I have collected these authorities into a short bibliography in Appendix II. I am bound especially to acknowledge my indebtedness to the scholarly essays of Professor Vinogradoff who has done such excellent work in recent years to elucidate the many difficult points of English manorial history. My thanks are due to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for permission to print the lists of Court Rolls in their respective custodies, as also to the General Editor, the officers of the Public Record

Office, and many friends for the hints and assistance given in this compilation.

I would here also acknowledge the courtesy I have invariably received at the hands of lords and their stewards, in being allowed to inspect and take transcripts of rolls ; unfortunately this is not the experience of many engaged in antiquarian research. Some, no doubt well-intentioned, but too zealous custodians, are often inclined to regard inquiries concerning their rolls as an intrusion. It is to be hoped that, if the proposal of establishing County Record Offices should some day be carried into effect, many lords may be induced to deposit therein these valuable records, where they would be secure from the ravages of fire, damp and vermin, and, with permission of their owners, available for the student of mediæval life and manners.

If these pages should arouse a wider interest in that old-time institution of the English manor, or lead to a more reverent care for the documents which enshrine its history, I shall have the satisfaction of feeling that my labour has not been altogether in vain.

N. J. H.

N.B.—A society of Seneschals, or Manorial Stewards, of England and Wales is in process of formation, one of the objects of which is "to aid and encourage the preservation and study of manorial Court Rolls." Particulars may be obtained from Charles Greenwood, Esq., Steward of the Manor of Old Paris Garden, 1 Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, E.C.

Part I

THE MANOR

THE MANOR AND MANORIAL RECORDS

CHAPTER I

ORIGIN OF THE MANOR

WHEN that institution which we know under its Norman name of the *manor* first emerges upon the stage of history, it is recognized that two elements enter into its constitution, the seignorial and the communal; a lord, and a group of dependents working and having rights in common. The question then arises whether the manor owes its origin to the subjection of a free community to an overlord; or whether a servile population always existed working for a superior who was absolute owner of the soil. In other words, did private property in land exist from the beginning? Or is our present system merely the outcome of centuries of appropriation by individuals with more or less doubtful titles?

The origin of the manor, a subject of engrossing interest to the student of social and economic science, is still involved in considerable obscurity. The researches of English and Continental scholars of recent

years, although throwing much light on the subject, have, as yet, led to no definite conclusion, and the matter is still considered *sub judice*. The mark theory, held by the older school, on which Mr. Kemble has insisted in his *Saxons in England*, may be here briefly stated. In very early times, before those Continental tribes, afterwards known as the English, had crossed over into Britain, all land was held in common by various communities, each consisting of a few families who occupied a tract they had cleared from the waste, and separated from other like settlements by a boundary or mark, a name that in time came to be applied to the actual settlement. In the village each markman had his homestead, with a share in the common land consisting of the waste or rough pasture, the enclosed meadows for hay or the rearing of stock, and the arable land divided into lots. Each man's right, however, was that of usufruct only, the absolute ownership being vested in the community for the common benefit of all. It was held that from this mark—a group of households arranged on a democratic basis which formed the unit of social organization among the first Saxon settlers—was developed the manor, an autocratic system in which a group of tenants acknowledged the authority of a lord, who, through some political or social cause, had gained an ascendancy over his neighbours, or had promised them protection in return for their subjection to his authority.

On the other hand, Mr. Seebohm, in his masterly essay, maintains that the English village community was derived from the Roman *villa*, and was manorial

or servile throughout the Anglo-Saxon period; whilst Professor Maitland contends that there was little communalism in the early English village, which was inhabited by freemen who owned land in severalty.

The weight of evidence, however, appears to be with those who maintain that the seignorial element was super-imposed upon original free communities; but when and how this subjection was effected still baffles the inquiries of authorities. One of the most able and patient investigators of the manorial system has recorded his deliberate opinion that

"the communal organization of the [English] peasantry is more ancient and more deeply laid than the manorial order. Even the feudal period shows everywhere traces of a peasant class living and working in economically self-dependent communities under the loose authority of a lord whose claims may proceed from political causes and affect the semblance of ownership, but do not give rise to the manorial connection between estate and village."[1]

The truth is that every successive wave of invasion contributed its quota to the building up of that institution which received its coping-stone at the hands of the Normans by its more strict feudalization—the English manor. Even in Celtic society, which rested mainly on a tribal basis, we may detect some elements which went towards the formation of the manor; landownership began to be recognized as a social force; serfs lived by the side of free tenants, but arranged in separate communities; both these classes were subjected to food tribute, and bound to provide maintenance for their

[1] Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 409.

chiefs; aristocratic rank and degrees existed among the folk, but the idea of kinship, and of affinity of blood, kept alive the spirit of co-operation.

Although the Roman occupation of Britain had its influence in modifying the process of social evolution, the civilization it brought was of too exotic a nature to take deep root on British soil. It has been well compared to

> "the influence of a stream which makes its way in several channels through the country, fertilising the plains around it and materially influencing the immediate surroundings, but not succeeding in entirely altering its general aspect."[1]

The individualistic character of southern agriculture was unfitted for the northern provinces of the Empire. Where there were extensive tracts of waste, where pastoral pursuits yielded more profitable results than agriculture, where persistent and skilled labour was not a necessity, there naturally arose a system of extensive cultivation which we know as the open-field system. It was this system, with its primitive rotation of crops, its intermixture of strips of neighbouring claims, its modes of depasturing cattle and regulations for the use of the waste, etc., which led to a communalistic organization in hamlets and villages. The Roman lordships and villas undoubtedly played their part, as providing natural and powerful centres in the process of settlement and organization; but, taking them as a whole, the rural arrangements of the Roman period in Britain were determined to a great extent by Celtic antecedents.

[1] Vinogradoff, *Growth of the Manor*, p. 83.

But it is at the period of the migration to Britain of the various Continental tribes of Teutonic origin, that a more thorough change is perceptible in the conditions of life, and a greater development is apparent in the economic history of these islands. We may note the grouping of the folk in households, to each of which a hide of land was appropriated; these again were gathered into districts each comprising a hundred households—hence called the hundred—over which rose the more comprehensive unit of the shire.

The formation of the *tún*, however, or concentration of the rural population in villages, may be said to be the distinctive feature of the Anglo-Saxon period.

"The new settlers were bent on keeping together for purposes of agriculture and defence; the troublous times which began with their invasion, and went on until the complete organization of feudal monarchy, were not propitious to separate homesteads and farms. The sway of the military class over the agricultural was made easier by the gathering of masters, foremen, and tillers in the same centre."[1]

The prevalent form of settlement was therefore that of the tún or ham, a village of considerable size and not a hamlet or separate homestead, although these still continued to exist by the side of the larger settlements; but even these latter were grouped together into villages for administrative and judicial purposes. Another variety of the tún was the urban district—the town for which there was no distinctive term till much later times, proving that no fundamental difference then existed between the organization of the village and

[1] Vinogradoff, *Growth of the Manor*, p. 147.

town. "A vill is the *tún* as accepted by the French conquerors, not as founded or re-settled by English colonists."

As the tribal arrangement gradually broke up, and the central power was not sufficiently strong to afford adequate protection to individuals, a system of patronage arose which influenced to a great extent the evolution of the manor. The lord (*hlaford*) became an important factor in social organization, and a territorial aristocracy was the natural outcome of the situation.

"Public justice was at best cumbersome and onerous, it was a source of profits and exactions. Fines had to be imposed and levied, local means provided for the easy discharge of petty causes, and great men were considered the best local agents for enforcing obedience and taking up the settlement of local disputes. Small people were freed on their side from costly peregrinations and processes, while great people obtained new sources of income and influence."[1]

It is easy to see how a dependent population would grow up around these centres of political power and a system of rents and services would develope, and thus the Anglo-Saxon estate became gradually manorialized. It is worthy of remark that there are traces of an intermediate stage in manorial history, when the services of tenants were not due to a resident lord, but to one living at a distance, and partook more of the nature of tribute. There was a special class of riding bailiffs, radmen or rod-knights, who collected the dues of tenants. The services of the community were frequently under the supervision of the free tenants,

[1] Vinogradoff, *Growth of the Manor*, p. 214.

and the weekly and nightly "farms," that is, the finding of provisions for the lord's household, point to self-dependent communities working their own estates, and having only a tribute-paying relationship to a lord. This gave way to the more personal tie, as the manor settled down to its later form of a home farm, with a resident landlord upon it.

Mr. Seebohm has shown that the Saxon estate, long before the Norman Survey, was divided into the lord's demesne and land in villainage, though the Norman phraseology was not then used. The lord of the manor was a thane or *hlaford*. The demesne land was the thane's *inland*. All classes of villains were called *geneats*. The land in villainage was the geneat land or gesettes land or sometimes gafol land; this land in villainage was composed of hides and yard-lands, and the tenants on it divided into two classes, the geburs or holders of yard-lands, and the cottiers with smaller holdings. Beneath these were the *theows* or slaves, answering to the *servi* of Domesday. In the *Rectitudines*, or Saxon Laws of Landright, a document of about the tenth century, the services due from various persons on an estate are described. The first part of this treatise deals with the services of the thane, and informs us that he owed military and other services for his estate to the king, always including the three great needs, the *trinoda necessitas:* (1) to accompany the king in his military expeditions; (2) to aid in the building of castles; (3) to maintain the bridges. In a charter of A.D. 950, where a manor is described as containing thirty hides, nine are of the inland and

twenty-one of gesettes land, the latter containing so many yard-lands. Gesettes land simply meant land set or let out to tenants. The second part of the treatise gives us the duties of the tenants, first those of the gebur, or villain proper.

"The geburs services are various, in some places heavy, in others moderate. On some land he must work at week-work two days, at such work as he is required through the year every week and at harvest three days for week-work, and from Candlemas to Easter three. . . . And from the time that they first plough to Martinmas he shall each week plough one acre and prepare himself the seed in the lord's barn. Also 3 acres bene work and 2 to grass yrth and each gebur gives 6 loaves to the swineherd when he drives his herd to mast . . . he shall have given to him for his outfit 2 oxen and 1 cow and 6 sheep and seven acres sown on his yard land. And he must have given to him tools for his work and utensils for his house. Then when he dies, his lord takes back what he leaves. . . . On some lands the gebur shall pay honey gafol, on some meat gafol, on some ale gafol. Let him who is over the district take care that he knows what the old land customs are and what are the customs of the people."

Then the cottier's services are referred to:—

"He shall do what on the land is fixed; on some he shall, each Monday in the year, work for his lord and three days a week in harvest . . . he ought to have five acres in his holding; he pays hearth penny on Holy Thursday and Kirkshot at Martinmas."

From the above extracts we see how complete is the resemblance of the Saxon estate, though called a tún or ham, to the post-Domesday manor in the Norman sense of the term—an estate, with a village community in villainage upon it, under a lord's jurisdiction.

The survival of Saxon names for classes of tenants and their services, on the later manorial estate, is noticeable. The geneats of the Saxon estate became the neatmen or *neti* of later times. The neti at Hidenham and Coddington, in Bucks, held yard-lands and half yard-lands (thirteenth century). The service of grass-erth mentioned in the *Rectitudines* was in return for the privilege of feeding cattle in the lord's open pasture. In 1279 a yard-lander at Newington, Oxon, was bound to plough an acre of winter tillage called gerserthe, for which service he had common in the lord's pasture from Lammas to Mid-Lent. The term "gersyrth" was used at Piddington, in Oxfordshire, as late as 1363 according to a rental of that date; the teams of the customary tenants came to plough the lord's land within four days of St. Michael, which service was called grasshearth and was done in order that the lord might raise no hedge, nor make a several pasture in the fallow field to exclude the cattle of the tenantry; in fact, the exact phrases employed in the *Rectitudines* of the tenth century, to describe the services of tenants, occur in rentals of some four centuries later.

At the coming of the Normans to England, they found Anglo-Saxon society in a somewhat chaotic state. Although the trend of social institutions was towards feudalism, and the Saxon "tún" resembled closely its Continental counterpart—the manor—there was yet the framework of an older civilization of tribal origin. The township was the unit of taxation and police. Each village was represented by its hundredors

in the hundred, and above the hundred was the shire. These units of an older system were not disturbed by the Conqueror, and as the hundred and shire had their courts, the manor was duly equipped with its baronial court, which was intended to supersede the old village folkmoot, although the latter in many instances survived. Thus the Conqueror did not revolutionize English institutions, but reorganized them on a more strictly feudal basis. The tillers of the soil would feel little difference in their burdens. Their new lords would, in most instances, require from them the same services as they had rendered to their predecessors, although of course some new relations between lord and tenant might be entered into in certain localities.

But perhaps the strongest argument for the evolution of the manor from an original free community, is the survival of organization and custom to be met with throughout the course of manorial history, of which a notable instance is that of our commons, still existing in spite of the numerous enclosures. Other survivals existed in many parts of the country till a comparatively recent period. Mr. Gomme[1] has brought together a mass of matter bearing on the subject, one of the most striking instances adduced being that of the manor of Aston and Cote, in Oxfordshire. There are proofs of its being an Anglo-Saxon settlement; and, from its isolated position, through want of communication by road with the neighbouring villages, it seems to have been specially adapted for the preservation of an ancient organization. The record

[1] *Village Communities.*

of a case submitted by the lord of the manor to counsel, in 1657, for a legal opinion, shows us the lord seeking to obtain rights over his tenants, of which in most manors there was no question. He states that—

"there hath been a custom time out of mind that a certain number of persons called the sixteens or the greater part of them have used to make orders, set penalties, choose officers and lot the meadows and do all such things as are usually performed in the Court Baron of other manors."

The sixteens were bound to provide four two-year-old bulls to run on the common pasture—a clue to the origin of the lord's bull. The sixteens held land in their corporate capacity for the benefit of the community, consisting of several *leyes* in the common field, two years mowed and the other fed. They claimed the appointment of the village officers, the hayward, the constable, and the smith, and allotted lands to them for their services. The whole district was divided into three parts—common-field, common-meadow, and common-pasture; each proprietor of a yard-land possessed about thirty acres divided among the three above-named sections of the territory—

"twenty acres of arable land in the common fields from which he obtained wheat, beans, and other similar crops, four or five acres in the common meadow which he made into hay for feeding his cattle in the winter, and lastly, he had the right of feeding either eight cows or four horses at discretion on one part of the common pasture and sixteen sheep in that part."

Here is a community of the seventeenth century bound up with a manorial estate, yet not entirely absorbed into it, but retaining most of the rights, and performing the duties of a self-dependent village settlement.

MANOR HOUSE, BOOTHBY PAGNELL, LINCOLNSHIRE

CHAPTER II

THE LORD OF THE MANOR

THE lord of the manor, though always a person of importance, yet occupied a varying position in the social scale. From the great magnate, who counted his manors by the score, and had a rent-roll equal to that of a modern nobleman, we pass through several gradations to the county gentleman, with his modest income of from £5 to £20 a year, that is, from £100 to £400 of our money. The lord's relation to his tenantry was that of a constitutional ruler to his subjects; the manor was a petty state, and custom secured to the villain a sense of right, that gave dignity to the system, which is often so conspicuously absent

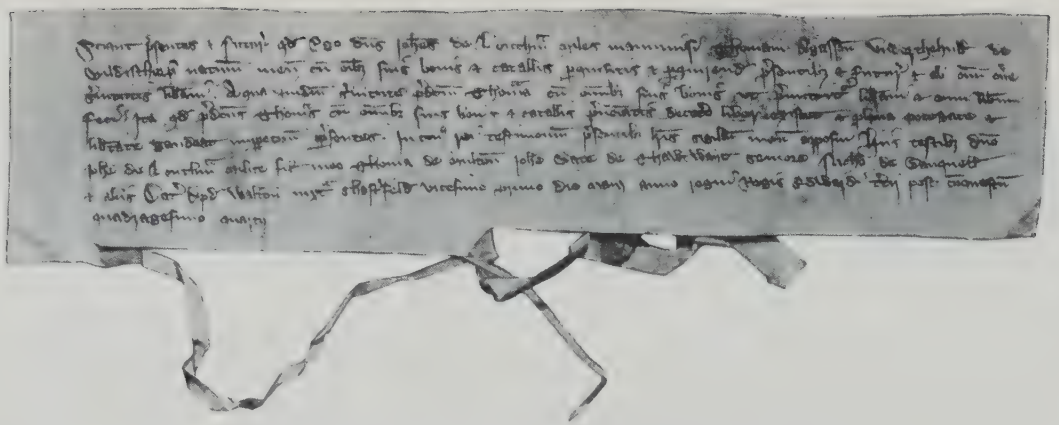
from the modern relations of capital and labour. Then as now, however, much depended on the character of the individual lord. Although the custom of the manor might preserve the peasantry from any gross interference with their liberty, yet contemporary writers tell us of masters of evil reputation who had earned the title of "flayers of rustics," men who considered that "the churl like the willow sprouted the better for being cropped." On the other hand, there were men of the opposite type who were noted for the mildness of their sway, as St. Hugh of Lincoln, who forbore to take the best chattel as "heriot" from a distressed widow, and refused "relief" from a poor knight on taking up his inheritance—actions which brought upon him the warning from his steward that he ran the risk of losing the lands by relinquishing the legal evidences of their tenure.

The position of the lord—even after the process of Norman feudalization had tended to his exaltation and to the depression of his dependents—was not one of undefined power. Although possessed of important rights and privileges, he at the same time had definite duties to discharge towards his tenantry. His demesne land was made up in large part of strips in the open fields, and these would be subjected to the same course of tillage as those of his neighbours. Even in his own court he, or rather his steward, sat more as a recorder than as judge. The tenantry of the manor, forming the jury, were virtually his assessors, and we find numerous instances of a lord being amenable to censure and even amercement in the

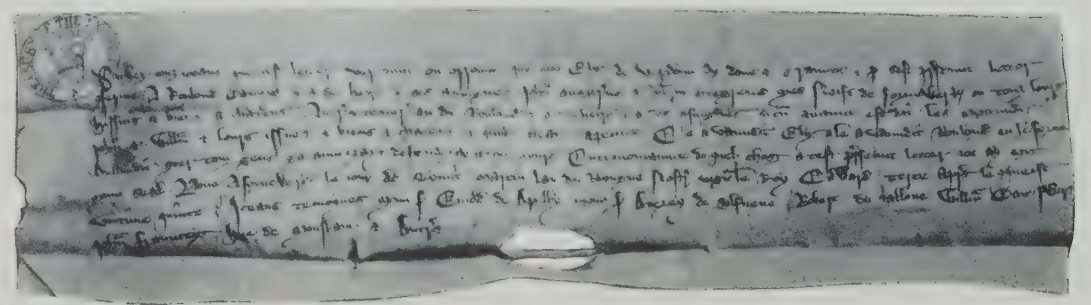
Manor Court. In cases of dereliction of duty, such as the repair of fences, obstructions of highways, enclosures of commons, provision of sheepfolds, and other matters which might be to the damage and prejudice of his neighbours, we find the Court often dealing with the lord in a manner which suggests some tradition of independence of his authority, and that even at a late period of manorial history. For instance, in 1577, at Fulbeck, in Lincolnshire, Mr. Thomas Dysney is presented in his own court "for trespassing in the several field with his sheep," and is fined 2*d*. In 1603, at Little Carlton, in the same county, the jurors present that Mr. Cooke, the lord of the manor, "shall appoint us a place to set our common fold on with sufficient wood for to make it betwixt this and Martinmas next on pain of £5"; and, further, that he make his fence sufficient between William Kendall and himself (*i.e.* his strip in the common field) on pain of 4*d*.

The rights of a lord over his tenants, as presented in manorial records, may be said to fall under three heads: those connected with customs and services, derived from personal subjection; certain burdens which lay on the land; and others which owed their origin to the political sway conferred by feudal lordship.

To the first of these we may refer the power of the lord to sell his villain. Although it is possible that such a legal right existed, and that some lords with exaggerated views of their privileges might occasionally take advantage of it, such transactions were extremely uncommon. The deeds of sale which we meet with even in the fourteenth century—a large majority



DEED OF MANUMISSION OF A VILLAIN, TEMP. EDWARD III



DEED OF GRANT OF A VILLAIN, TEMP. EDWARD III

V APP. II

of which, it should be noted, were made to religious houses—were probably those of enfranchisement, which preserved the formulæ of obsolete legal phraseology. It is impossible, for instance, to believe that, after the Peasants' Revolt in the time of Richard II., a lord could demise his bondman "with all his issue begotten and to be begotten his chattels and goods," without mention of land; yet several deeds so worded exist among the collection of ancient deeds at the Public Record Office and elsewhere.

The exaction of merchet has been generally considered as one of the badges of servitude. It was a fine claimed by the lord from his villain on the marriage of a daughter, which implied personal subjection, although sometimes exacted from a free tenant if in occupation of a customary holding. The fine was virtually to purchase approval of the marriage, as, in marrying a stranger, or even a freeman within the manor, the lord lost the services of her progeny; it was usually paid by her father or guardian, seldom by the prospective husband, and involved no more degradation than the modern fee for a marriage licence. The lord being the patron and protector of all within the manor, there was nothing offensive in the arrogation of a right of approval to the marriage of his tenant's daughter. He would naturally claim some control over her dowry, in order that the estate might be secured from impeachment, in the same way that there was a stipulation as to the sale of colts and bull-calves on the farm or holding, on the assumption that it had been originally stocked by some former landlord.

The amount of merchet exacted seems to have differed considerably even in the same locality. In some manors, as at Headington, no fine was required from tenants marrying within the manor. Mr. Rogers[1] has collected several entries of these fines in Oxfordshire, showing how they varied in different manors. At Stillington (1272) a tenant pays but 1*s.* for merchet, while another taking a widow to wife pays 20*s.*, and the daughter of the said widow on her marriage is mulcted in the sum of 6*s.* 8*d.* At Gawlingay (1261) Sir Robert son of Walter pays 10*s.* for his daughter's marriage, but a maid (*ancilla*) at Cuxham (1291) pays only 6*d.* It would seem as if much were left to the discretion of the steward or bailiff in the exaction of these fines; possibly a sliding scale was often adopted to meet the social or financial position of the applicant, cases occurring of its being altogether remitted "on account of poverty." It is, moreover, probable that some confusion has occurred in the extension of this term to payments which have a distinctly different origin, as the *maritagium* claimed from the heiress of a military fee, the fine for marriage levied by the township or hundred, or the commutation of the *jus primæ noctis*, an infamous claim made by certain lords on a tenant's marriage of which traces exist in Scotland, Ireland, and on the Continent.

There were other fines imposed by the lord which emphasized the personal tie of subjection. *Chevage* was a poll tax claimed from those who had neither house nor land in the manor, or had left the manor either to seek work or follow a craft. In the latter case

[1] *History of English Agriculture.*

the object seems to have been to keep some hold on the villain who had escaped the immediate sway of his lord. A fine was also exacted from a villain going to the University or taking Holy Orders, for this would emancipate him and the lord lost his services. This fine also appears to have been very variable. At Wolrichston (1235) Thomas atte Hull is fined 6*s.* 8*d.* that he may be promoted to all the Orders; William Martin pays 5*s.* for leave to send his eldest son to the University; William Potter pays 13*s.* 4*d.* for the same licence; while Stephen Sprot enjoys the same privilege for 3*s.* 4*d.*

Of those burdens more intimately connected with land tenure, the first and most general was the *heriot*, due on the death of a villain tenant. This was a tribute of the personal goods and chattels of the holder of the land; it is supposed to have had its origin in the Saxon "heregeat," the horse, arms, or habiliments of war, as the word signifies, which at the death of a follower were put into other hands for defence of the country. In course of time, as a state of warfare gave way before more peaceful pursuits, on the assumption before mentioned that the lord had provided the outfit for agricultural work, some token of the lord's right was returned at the death of a tenant, which generally was the best live beast, horse or ox, of which he died possessed. Sometimes, in default of cattle, the best inanimate chattel was claimed, as a jewel, a piece of plate, or even a garment. In some manors the burden was very onerous, as on lands of the see of Lichfield, where the best head of horned cattle, all horses, the

cart, the cauldron, all woollen cloth, all the swine, and all the swarms of bees were claimed. The villains of St. Albans Abbey, besides the best beast, had to surrender all the household furniture. On the other hand, there are instances, as in some manors of Battle Abbey, of the claim being altogether remitted to those who had no oxen. Later the heriot was usually commuted for a money payment; but the ancient right has been occasionally claimed in modern times, as in the well-known case of the racehorse Smolensko, valued at some £2000 to £3000, which was unsuccessfully claimed as a heriot by the lord of the manor of Wickes Park, Essex, on the death, in 1827, of Sir T. C. Bunbury, of Mildenhall, Suffolk, who was a copyhold tenant of that manor.

Lord Cranworth, in his speech on the Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill (*Times*, May 26th, 1852), after referring to the case of Smolensko, proceeds to quote other instances of the claim being harshly enforced in modern times.

"The Pitt diamond was at one time pledged to a pawnbroker who had a small copyhold tenement in Westmoreland liable to heriot, and, upon his death, the owner of the manor either did seize, or intimated to the parties that he had a right to seize, and he [Lord Cranworth] believed that he had seized the diamond."

He also mentions the case of Sir Robert Peel, who was a copyhold tenant of a certain manor where a customary heriot was due; at this time he was owner of the famous picture by Rubens, "Le Chapeau de Paille," now in the National Gallery, and being

apprehensive that it might be seized, became the purchaser of the manor of which he was then a tenant.

A *relief* was usually due on a tenant taking the estate of his ancestor, according to the custom of the manor, being generally a year's rent; a fine was also imposed on the alienation of land. There were other privileges which pertained more particularly to feudal lordship, such as the right the lord had of talliaging his tenants, of amercing them in the Manor Court, of compelling them to grind their corn at the manorial mill, and of regulating the sale of bread and beer.

The lord had a right to demand from all his tenants a render, rent, or service of some kind or other, and to exact from each the oath of fealty. This bond of obligation between the lord and his tenants is constantly referred to in the Court Rolls; the customary tenant, on surrender of his tenement and regrant of the same, "does fealty and is admitted tenant." In addition to the oath of fealty the free tenant was called upon to do homage to his lord: humbly kneeling and holding up his hands together between those of his lord, he professed that "he did become his man, from that day forth, of life and limb, and earthly honour"; and then he received a kiss from his lord, a ceremony which still forms part of the English coronation service.

The highest privilege, however, pertaining to manorial lordship was that of holding a domestic court called the Court Baron, in which alienations and disputes as to property were arranged, by-laws made, and breaches of such presented by the jury, and duly visited with a fine. But in most manors,

from an early period, the Crown had delegated its powers to the lord for holding a court of criminal jurisdiction in which infringements of the common or statute law, not grave enough to be brought before the superior courts, were dealt with. In later times this court came to be called a Court Leet; but more often the View of Frankpledge, from its original intent being to view the freemen within its jurisdiction, who, from the age of twelve, were all mutually pledged for the good behaviour of each other. In some manors there was also a Customary Court, to which the customary tenants, or, as they came to be called later, the copyholders, owed suit, and in which matters affecting their interests were duly disposed of; but in practice these several jurisdictions were amalgamated, and breaches of the king's peace and matters concerning the internal economy of the manor were dealt with at the same court.

There were other privileges incident to certain manors, such as those bordering on the sea-coast or on river estuaries, where the lord, either by prescription or grant from the Crown, claimed wreckage of the sea, royal fish, shellfish, shells, and sometimes a separate fishery. There were also several manors in which the lord claimed a testamentary jurisdiction for his manor court over his tenants, a right which, in most cases, can be traced to some former connection with an ecclesiastical corporation; thus the Knights Hospitallers claimed the probate of all their tenants' wills, possibly by a papal grant, a right which after the Dissolution was still exercised by the lords into whose

hands such manors had come, as, for instance, at Bingley, Yorkshire.

"At the Court held 26th August, 42nd Elizabeth (1600), the Jury found that the Probate of all Testaments and the granting of all administrations of all and every person and persons dying under the Cross, or upon any lands belonging to the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, doth of right belong to her Majesty. And that her Majesty's Steward of the same possessions for the time being, hath used 'tyme out of mynd of man' to prove the wills and grant the administrations after the death, as well of all her Majesty's free tenants, as of all others dying under the Cross."[1]

At the neighbouring manor of Temple Newsom, which was parcel of the possessions of the same Order, the lady of the manor claimed this right up to the passing of the Act in 1857, which abolished these local and peculiar jurisdictions; these courts were called the Courts of St. John of Jerusalem. At Gnossal, Staffordshire, a similar right was enjoyed by the lord, in this instance from the manor having been a prebendal manor of the see of Lichfield with peculiar jurisdiction. It is not so easy to trace the origin of this right in what are called Rectory manors as that of Breedon, in Worcestershire. Bishop Sandys, in his answers to the queries of the Privy Council, 5th Elizabeth, says:—

"The parson of Breedon pretendith, keepeth, and excuseth that his church and parish with the chapels of Norton, Milton, and Cuddesdon are exempt from the jurisdiction of the ordinary, that he hath probate of wills and committing of administrations."[2]

[1] Speight, *Chronicles and Stories of Old Bingley*, p. 124.

[2] Nash, *History of Worcestershire*. See Appendix II., List of Manor Courts having testamentary jurisdiction, with the places where wills are deposited.

The following picture of an ideal lord of a manor is drawn by a writer of the thirteenth century.

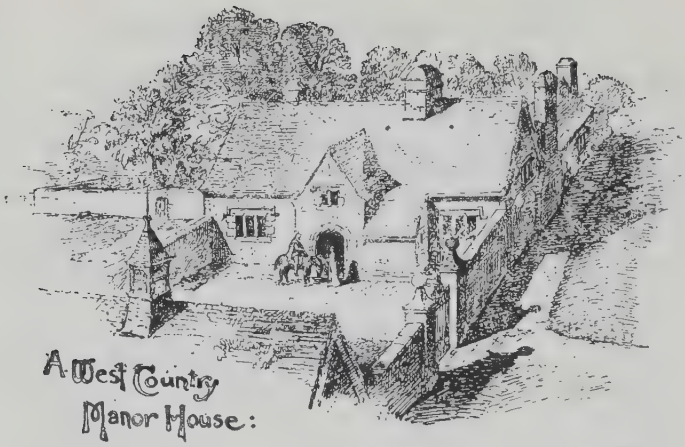
"The Lord ought to love God and justice, and be faithful and true in his sayings and doings, and he ought to hate sin and injustice, and evil doing. The Lord ought not to take counsel with men full of young blood, and ready courage, who know little or nothing of business, nor of any juggler, flatterer or idle talker, nor of such as bear witness by present, but he ought to take counsel with worthy and faithful men, ripe in years, who have seen much and know much, and who are known to be of good fame, and who never were caught or convicted for treachery or any wrong-doing; nor for love, nor for hate, nor for fear, nor for menace, nor for gain, nor for loss, will turn aside from truth, and knowingly counsel their lord to do him harm.

"He ought to command and ordain that the accounts be heard every year, not in one place but on all the manors, for so can one quickly know everything, and understand the profit and loss. And he ought to command and ordain that no bailiff have his food in the manors except at a fixed price in money, so that he take nothing from the manors but hay, firewood and straw; and that no friend, stranger nor anyone from the lord's hostel or elsewhere be received at the manors at the lord's expense, nor shall anything be given or delivered to them without warrant or writ, unless the bailiff or provost wish to acquit it from their own purses for the great expense one is unnecessarily put to.

"He ought to enquire by his own men and others on his manors as many as there are, about his steward and his doings and the approvements he has made since his coming; in the same way he ought to enquire about his profits and losses from the bailiff and reeve and how much he will have to seek from both. He ought to ask for his auditors and rolls of account, then he ought to see who has done well and who not and who has made improvement and who not,

and who has made profit and who not, but loss, and those he has then found good and faithful and profitable let him keep on this account. And if anyone be found who has done harm and is by no means profitable, let him answer for his doing and take farewell. And if the lord observe these said forms then will each lord live a good man, and honestly, and be as he will rich and powerful without sin, and will do injustice to no one.

"He ought to command the auditors on the manors to hear the plaints and wrongs of everybody who complains of the steward, or reeve, or hayward, or any other who is of the manor, and that full justice be done to franks and villeins, customary tenants and other plaintiffs such as by inquest can be had."



A West Country Manor House:

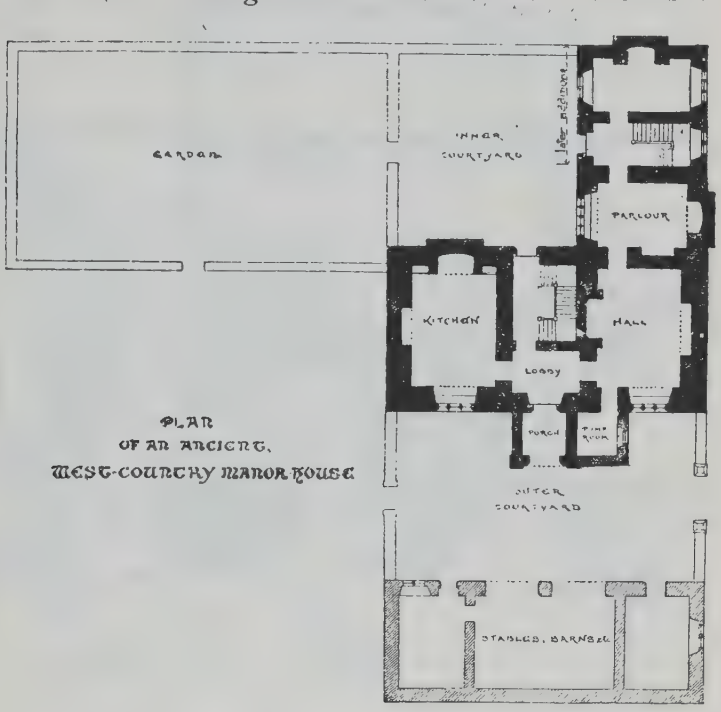
CHAPTER III

THE MANORIAL HALL AND ESTATE

IT must always be borne in mind that the term manor is not synonymous with that of parish or township. Although we frequently find the manor and township were conterminous, it often happened that the township included one or more manors, or again, that the manorial jurisdiction extended over several townships. The size of the manor also differed materially; but each estate was very carefully and definitely bounded, the description being of such a nature that it could be readily perambulated.

In every manor stood the lord's hall, the centre of the life of the community. From the Saxon period till well into the sixteenth century, and in some places much later, the ordinary manor house remained a

building of very simple pretensions. Examples of these houses still remain dotted over the country, long since turned into farm premises, or devoted to other uses. Mr. Baring Gould[1] describes one such still



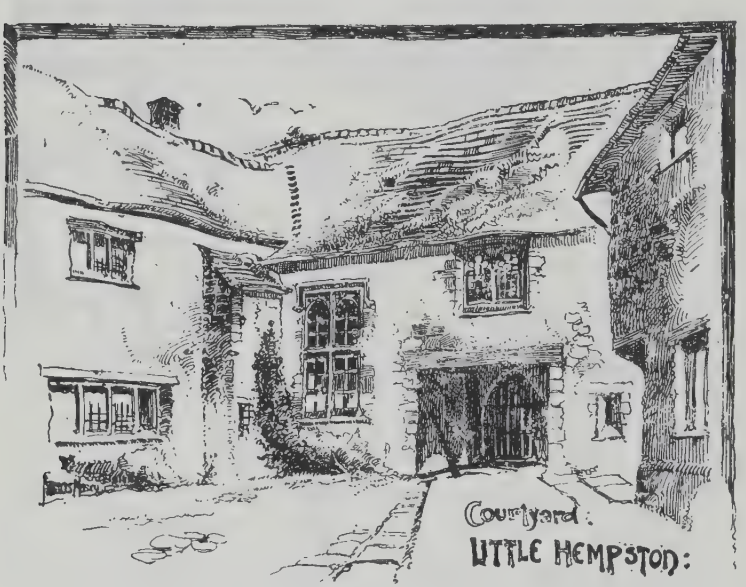
PLAN OF AN ANCIENT WEST-COUNTRY MANOR HOUSE

existing at Little Hempston, near Totnes. It is a perfect specimen of a manor house of the time of Richard II., practically unaltered since that period, and therefore of great interest.

"It consists of a quadrangle with buildings on all four sides; but the central court is only about 20 feet by 12 feet, into

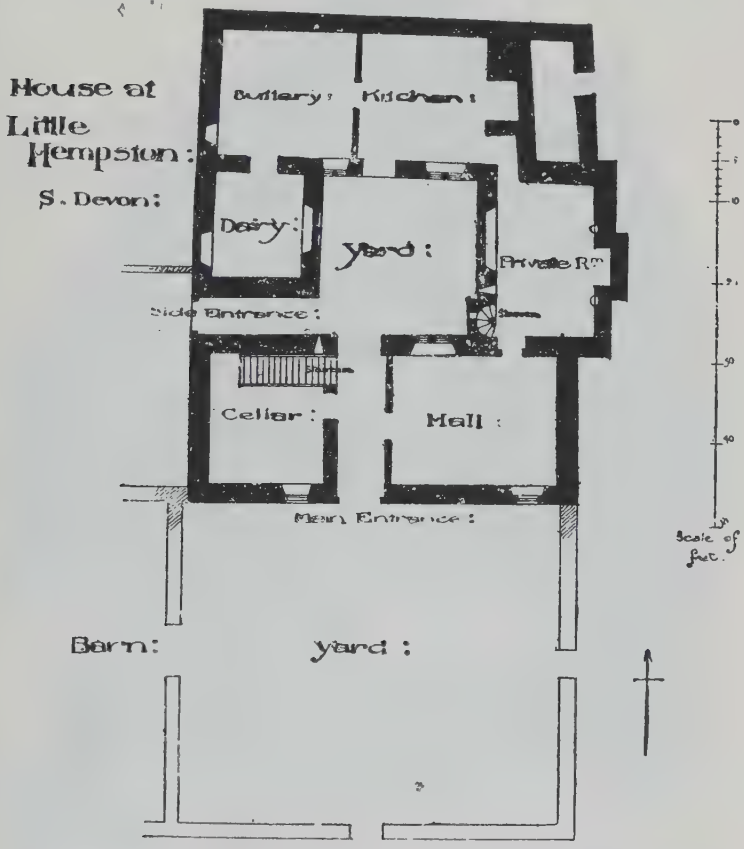
[1] *Old Country Life.*

which all the windows look from sun-less rooms. The only exception is the hall window, which has a southern outlook. The hall was heated by a brazier in the centre, and the smoke went out at a louvre in the roof. There was one gloomy parlour with a fire-place in it opening out of the hall. The rest of the quadrangle was taken up with kitchen, porter's lodge, cellar, and stable. Upstairs one long dormitory."



A common plan of the manor house was that of a parallelogram consisting of two rooms, "the hall and the bower" of Chaucer; occasionally there was an entrance or houseplace into which the central door opened, used as a living-room. This porch or entry, called in old English a trance (*transitus*), usually separated the hall from the buttery or storeroom for

provisions, wine, and ale, above which was "the bower," or as it was called in the North, the woman's chamber. The etymology of the word is interesting. *Búr* in old



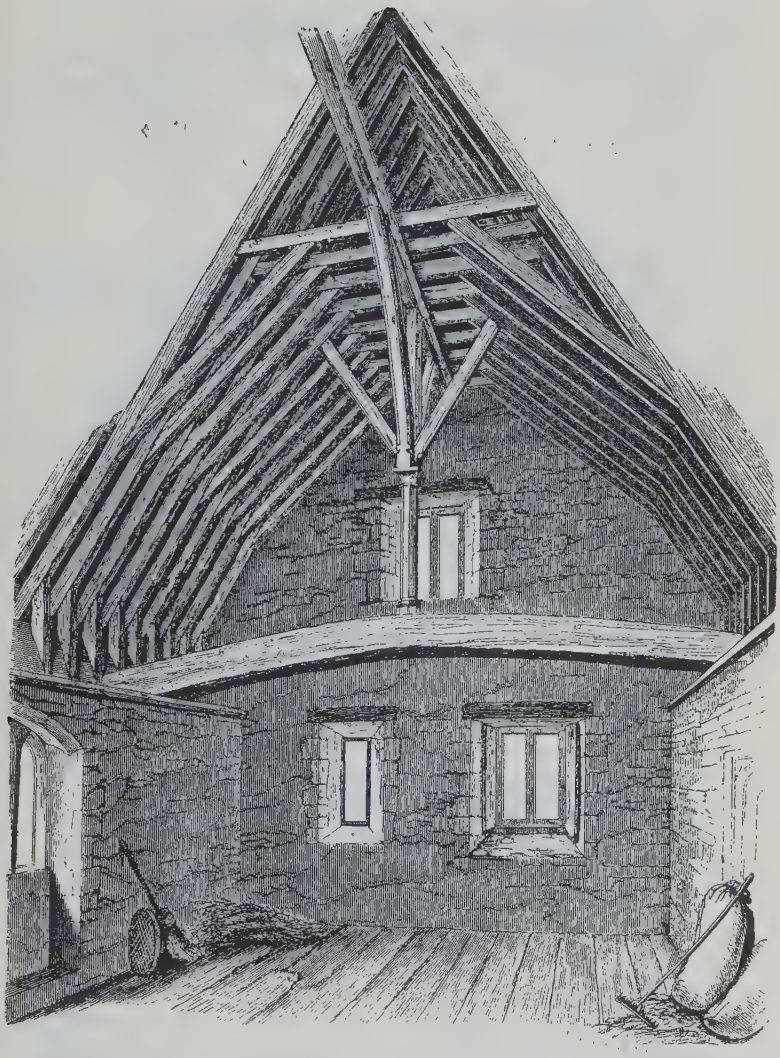
Norse meant buttery; and the buttery and kitchen being on the woman's side of the house, it is probable that in early times the word was used for all that portion of the dwelling, till in its later form of "bower"

it became the special designation of the chamber reserved for the female portion of the household.

The *Domesday of St. Paul's*—a survey made in 1222

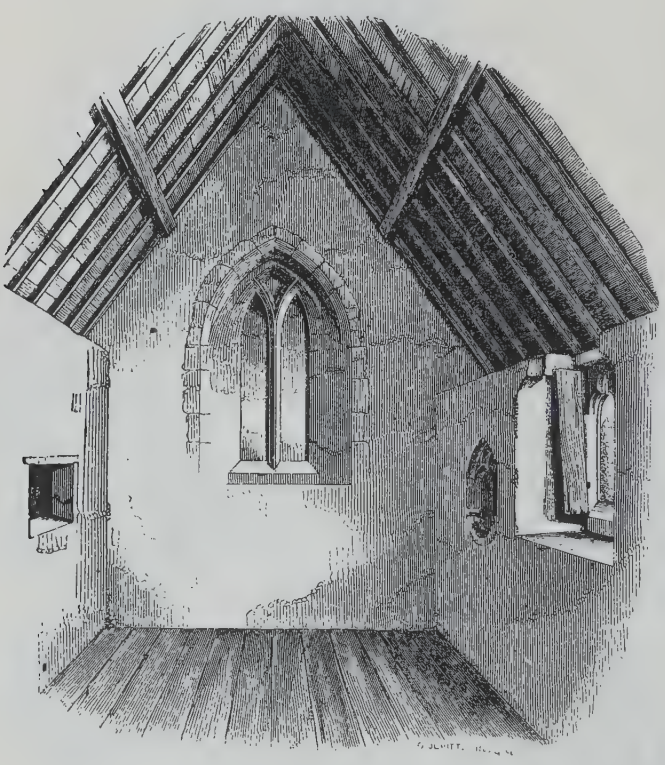
DORMITORY, LAYER MARNAY, ESSEX

of the manors belonging to the See, contains descriptions of many such houses with the dimensions of the rooms, from which we can almost reconstruct the plans. The manor house at Kensworth, Hertford-



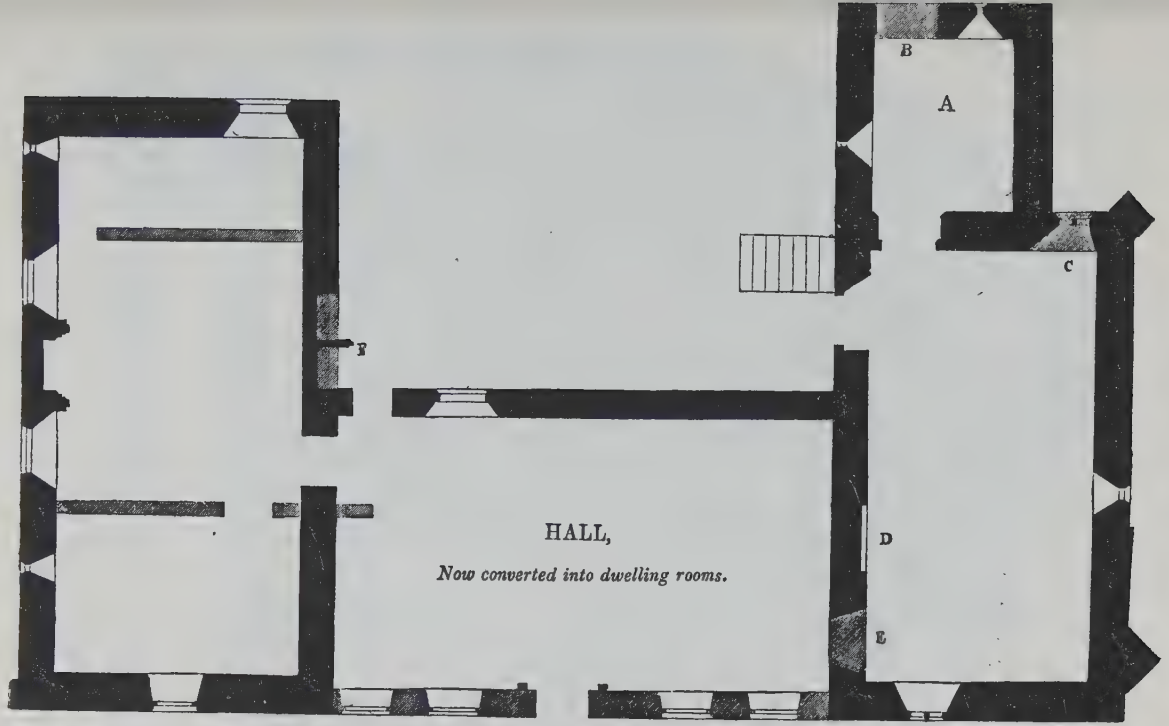
INTERIOR OF SOLAR, CHARNEY

shire, consisted of three chambers: the entrance or porch (domus), "wherein men sometimes used to dine," 12 feet by 17 feet, and 17 feet high to the ridge-tree; to the right was the hall (halla), the dimensions of



INTERIOR OF CHAPEL, CHARNEY

which were 35 feet in length, 30 feet in breadth, and 22 feet in height; and to the left the bower (thalamus), 22 feet in length, 16 feet in breadth, and 18 feet to the ridge-tree. A feature in every manor house of more



GROUND-PLAN OF HOUSE, CHARNEY, BERKSHIRE.

A. Cellar. B and E. Doors. C. Window. D. Fire-place. (These are now all blocked up.) F. Remains of Porch.

than ordinary pretensions was the chapel or oratory. This was frequently over the hall, as at Padley, Derbyshire; and sometimes over the buttery, as at Charney Basset, near Wantage.

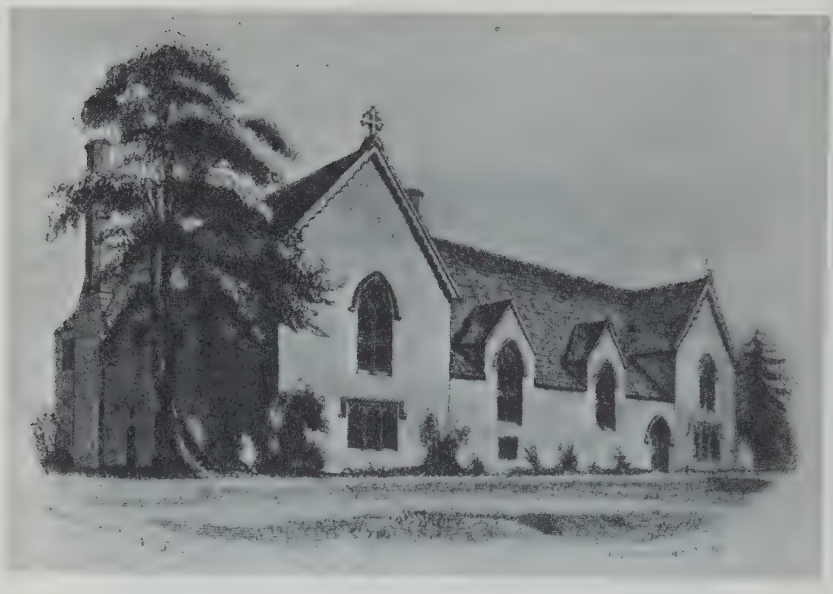
Occasionally, as at Little Wenham, the chapel or oratory consists of a sacrarium only separated from the hall by a screen, with a door and a window on each side of it, which were kept closed when not in use. The hall when used in this way often came to be called in later times the chapel, as at Sutton Courtney, Berks. When the chapel was a separate erection, a curious arrangement frequently prevailed, the western part or nave being divided by a floor into two stories, both open at the east end. The lower was used by the domestics, and the upper one by the lord and his family. Sometimes, in large houses, the upper story was reserved for ladies; in this case it was connected by a passage with the bower. In the Liberate Rolls of Henry III., it is ordered that a chapel be made in the King's house at Kennington "in such a manner that in the upper part there may be made a chapel for the use of our Queen, so that she may enter that chapel from her chamber, and in the lower part let there be a chapel for the use of our household." A fire-place is often found in these chapels, showing that they were used for secular as well as religious purposes; frequent notices occur in the chronicles of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries of secular business being transacted in the domestic chapel, the sovereign often using it, when not attending to public business in the hall or giving audience in his privy chamber. In the

INTERIOR OF HALL, SUTTON COURTNEY, BERKS

Bishops' Registers appear many licences granted for these private chapels or oratories, which were occasion-

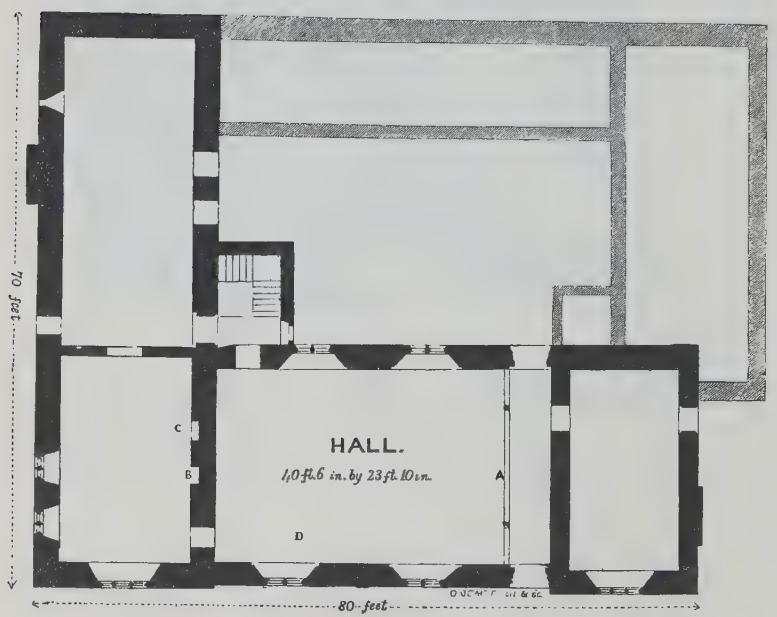
SOLAR, SUTTON COURTNEY, BERKS

ally renewed from year to year, with permission to have Mass said therein under certain conditions, one of which was that the lord and his family should repair to the



SOUTH VIEW

SUTTON COURTNEY, BERKSHIRE

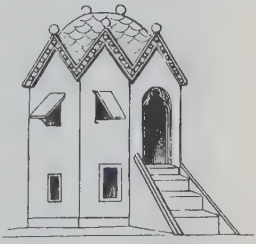


A. Screen. B. Fireplace. C. Locker D Low side Window

GROUND PLAN.

parish church on the greater festivals, and make the customary offerings.

The foregoing may be taken as typical examples of a manor house; the capital messuage of the surveys of mediæval manorial estates. If we enter the building we find the same simplicity prevails in the internal arrangements. The Manor Courts were held in the hall, which also often served as the common sitting and dining room for the lord, his family, and domestics, where there was no trance or houseplace. The furniture was scanty. From inventories we find that the tables were simple boards laid on trestles, so that they could be readily removed when not in use. Some forms and stools, or perhaps a long bench stuffed with straw, a few chairs of wood, with chests for linen and other household stuff, formed the ordinary suite. Around the walls were hung the implements of husbandry, as scythes, reaping hooks, corn measures, and empty sacks, interspersed with some weapons and trophies of the chase. In some of the larger mansion houses we find the "solar" or apartment where special guests were entertained—the parlour of the later farmhouse, generally built towards the south, as its name implied, and furnished as the private chamber of the lord. A winding stair of stone, in many instances exterior to the building, led to the dormitory, which was usually divided by rude partitions. A lean-to kitchen and oven completed the main structure. In the



HOUSE WITH EXTERNAL STAIRCASE
From a MS. in the British Museum

rear, grouped around a courtyard, were the granaries, sheds for cattle, the dairy, dovecotes, and other necessary edifices. Adjoining were some enclosures, closes as they were called, of the richer meadow land, which, with the strips of arable intermixed with those of his tenants, formed the home farm, or the lord's demesne. At no great distance was situated the village, made up of the homesteads of the tenantry, the houses of the better class

HOUSE

From a MS. in the British Museum (Add. 10,296)

approaching in plan and construction that of the lord, each standing in its own toft or plot of ground, generally with a croft or meadow land adjacent. The plan and arrangement of these homesteads bring into relief the relation of the lord to the village community; namely, that, although exercising his jurisdiction over the same, he formed an essential unit of the composite whole.

THE LINCES AT CLOTHALL, HERTS

Adjacent to the homesteads were a few small enclosures for rearing of stock, and beyond them stretched the open arable fields, which formed so marked a feature in the economy of the mediæval manor. For it must be remembered that, until the latter half of the eighteenth century, the greater part of the arable land throughout the country lay in open, unenclosed fields. There were few farms in the modern acceptation of the term; the farmers lived together in the villages, having their holdings in scattered strips in the said open fields. The high prices due to long wars eventually forced on the country the need of a more economic system of husbandry, and resulted in the many Inclosure Acts which were passed from the time of Queen Anne onwards.

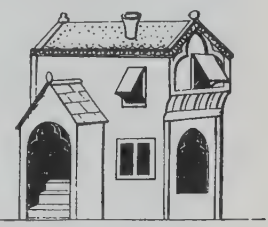
PORCH OF A HALL'
From a MS. in the British Museum

The common arable fields of a manor or township usually consisted of a suite of three, generally subdivided into smaller fields called shots or furlongs. These again were cut up into narrow strips, containing either an acre or half-acre, and separated from each other by a foot or so of unploughed land called a balk. These arable fields were subjected to a uniform system of tillage in triennial succession of fallow, wheat or rye, and spring crops as barley, oats, beans and peas.

On the outskirts of the arable land, where the soil was adapted for pasturage, or in the low-lying districts near a river, some few pastures called "hams" or "ings" were laid out for milch kine or other stock requiring

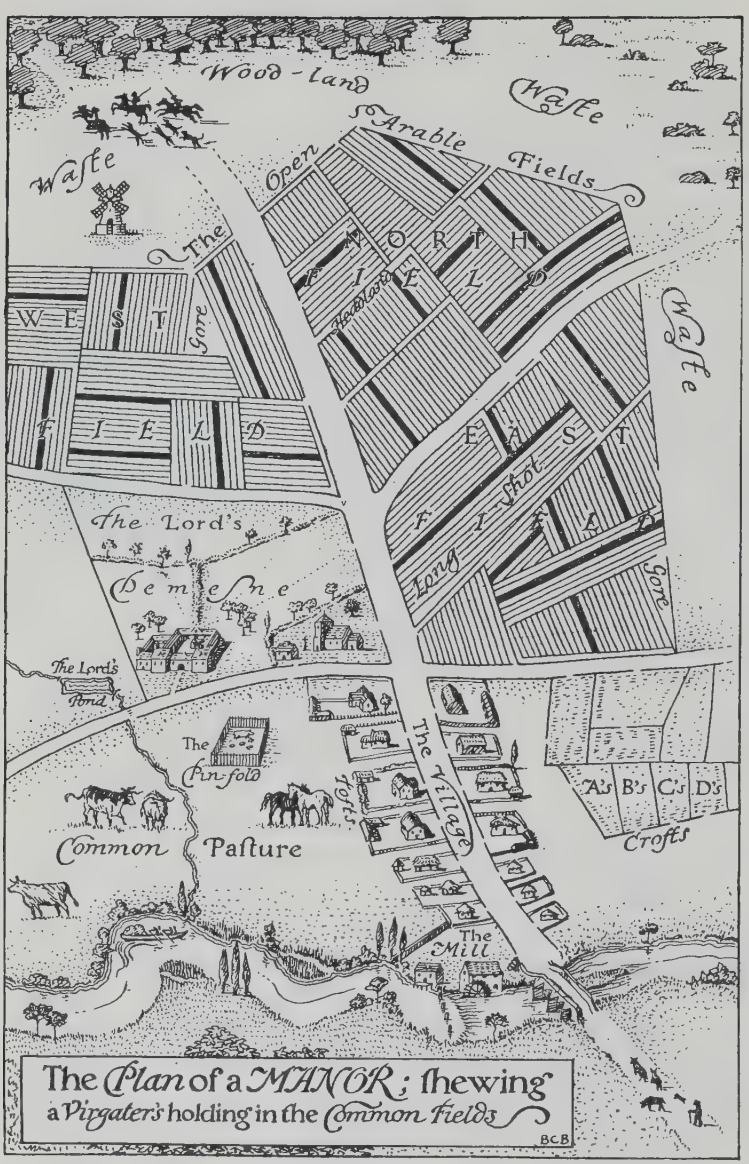
superior pasturage in summer; while beyond, lay the lord's waste, left in its natural wild state as a common pasture for the ordinary stock, where the tenants enjoyed certain rights of taking timber and turf for repair of their houses and fences, and for fuel.

The late Canon Taylor was of opinion that traces of the above old English system of husbandry might still be seen in many districts of England. Most of the grass lands adjoining the townships lie in parallel ridges, tolerably uniform in size, about 220 yards in length and from 11 to 22 yards in breadth, forming, as before mentioned, acre or half-acre strips. These ridges are locally called lands or rigs, and are the marks impressed on the soil, formerly arable land, by the ploughs of generations of rustics from a period long anterior to the Norman Conquest, testifying to the conservatism of English village life.[1] The explanation of these divisions is the open-field system of tillage. The length of the ridge, a "furrow long," represents the longest furrow that a team of oxen could plough without stopping to rest. In driving the oxen the ploughman would use an ox-goad, a long rod shod with



HOUSE WITH EXTERNAL STAIRCASE PROTECTED BY A PORCH
From a MS. in the Bodleian Library

[1] But although the traces of ancient husbandry may thus be found by the zealous antiquary in certain parts of the country, it is as well to bear in mind that much grass land was made arable to meet the demand for wheat, when at a very high price, during the French wars of about a century ago, and put back into pasture when the price fell. This is the undoubted explanation of much "ridge and furrow" that is now pasture.



The Plan of a MANOR; shewing a Virgater's holding in the Common Fields

iron, with the sharp point of which the oxen were pricked to hasten their pace. The most convenient length of the goad, to enable the ploughman to reach his oxen while holding the plough-stilts, is 16½ feet, the conventional length of the rod, pole, or perch. It is easy to imagine how the ox-goad came to be used as a land measure, the ploughman laying his goad on the ground at right angles to his first furrow to measure the breadth of the land he had to till; four of these lands or roods making up his acre, day's work or *journey*, as sometimes still called in the southern counties (old Fr. *journel*).

Another striking feature appears in the terraces or steps on the sides of hills which have been subjected to the ancient system of tillage. In ploughing such a hill-side the strips would run horizontally along it, and the custom was to turn the sod of the furrow downhill. As each strip was separated from the next by the unploughed balk, no sod could pass from one to the other, and so in process of time the strips became long, level terraces, with banks between, overgrown with grass and brambles, known by the name of lynches or linces. Examples of such terraces may be often seen on the steep sides of the Sussex Downs and the Chiltern Hills. We may also mention some smaller divisions of the open fields, the gores—or gored acres—tapering strips in the corners of fields which would not adapt themselves to the usual shape of the acre or half-acre; and lastly, little odds and ends of unused land which came to be known as No Man's land or Jack's land, and, as such, are often mentioned in the boundaries of manors.

BARNACK MANOR HOUSE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(Now taken down)

CHAPTER IV

THE DWELLERS ON THE MANOR

WHEN we come to consider the different classes of tenants on the Anglo-Norman manor, the more difficult we find it to draw hard-and-fast lines between them. The object of the Norman Survey was strictly fiscal — to ascertain the revenue of the country, not the condition of its inhabitants. It is clear that the commissioners, looking upon the ploughs as

the important units of taxation, and taxing by carucates and hides, described many who were personally free under the generic term of villains. As holders of land in villainage, they consequently contributed their quota to the plough team, and did plough service on the demesne. The remarkable scarcity of tenants returned as free in the Saxon districts may be probably accounted for in this way; freemen holding in villainage and villains born getting mixed up under the same names.[1] The Saxon "ceorl," the name of a free peasant, entirely disappears before that of villain, which was applied to the main stock of the manorial population, and refers more to tenure than to status. Its vernacular equivalent, "neat," continued in use for some centuries after the Conquest. In the Rochester Custumal; at Hedenham and Culverton

"the lord can put at work whoever he will of his Neats on St. Martin's day. And be it known that the Neats who are the same as Neiatmen are somewhat more free than Cotmen and all own virgates at least."

The great body of the peasantry fell under the class of customary tenants. This, besides a large free element, included the full villain with his farm of thirty acres, the semi-villain with his holding of fifteen, the cottar with some five acres, and thus, through several gradations, down to the man with his "farthing dole"

[1] This system of mixed tenure led to frequent litigation in later manorial history, the question often arising whether the acceptance of a servile condition reduced a man to the status of a serf, the lords claiming the sons of such tenants as their bondmen. Littleton says, "Though it be the folly of such freemen to take on such form, to hold by such bondage, yet this maketh not the man a villain."

or parcel of land containing a quarter of an acre. These constituted the English peasantry of the period,

"occupying the places their forefathers had formed for themselves, places gradually shaped by circumstances rather than by system. Poverty had depressed one to the verge of slavery, while success had raised another to an almost independent position."[1]

It is true that a few special classes are prominently mentioned in the *Domesday* writs. Firstly, the com-

EXTERIOR OF CHAPEL AND SOLAR, CHARNEY

missioners were directed to inquire in each vill the number of villains, cottars, and slaves. The latter class formed a very small percentage of the population, and disappears entirely in less than a century after the Great Survey. The exact status of this class is difficult to determine; there is reason to think that some were menials in the lord's household, but there

[1] Bateson, *Mediæval England*, p. 102.

is evidence that others occupied cottages and tilled small plots of land, as the class of cottars immediately above them, into which ultimately they became merged. The holdings of the cottars were small, a cottage with a curtilage or courtyard and a few acres in the arable fields, usually five; on account of the insignificance of their holdings, their services, although obligatory, were of a much lighter character than those of the villains proper. As few of these were the owners of even one ox, they were generally exempted from plough service; except at certain seasons, such as harvest, they were not called upon for more than one day's labour a week. In some parts they had the appellation of Monday's men, and they were also employed in sowing, weeding, sheep-shearing, and on other occasions of pressure. Many of them were bound to supply the lord's household with so many eggs, or so much poultry or honey, in lieu of other services. Having more time at their disposal, they were able to work on the larger holdings of their neighbours, and appear to have filled, to a considerable extent, the rôle of the modern agricultural labourer. The term bordar, which is used in *Domesday*, seems to have merged into that of cottar, as the word bord gave way to cottage in common speech, and in later manorial records these tenants appear as cottagers.

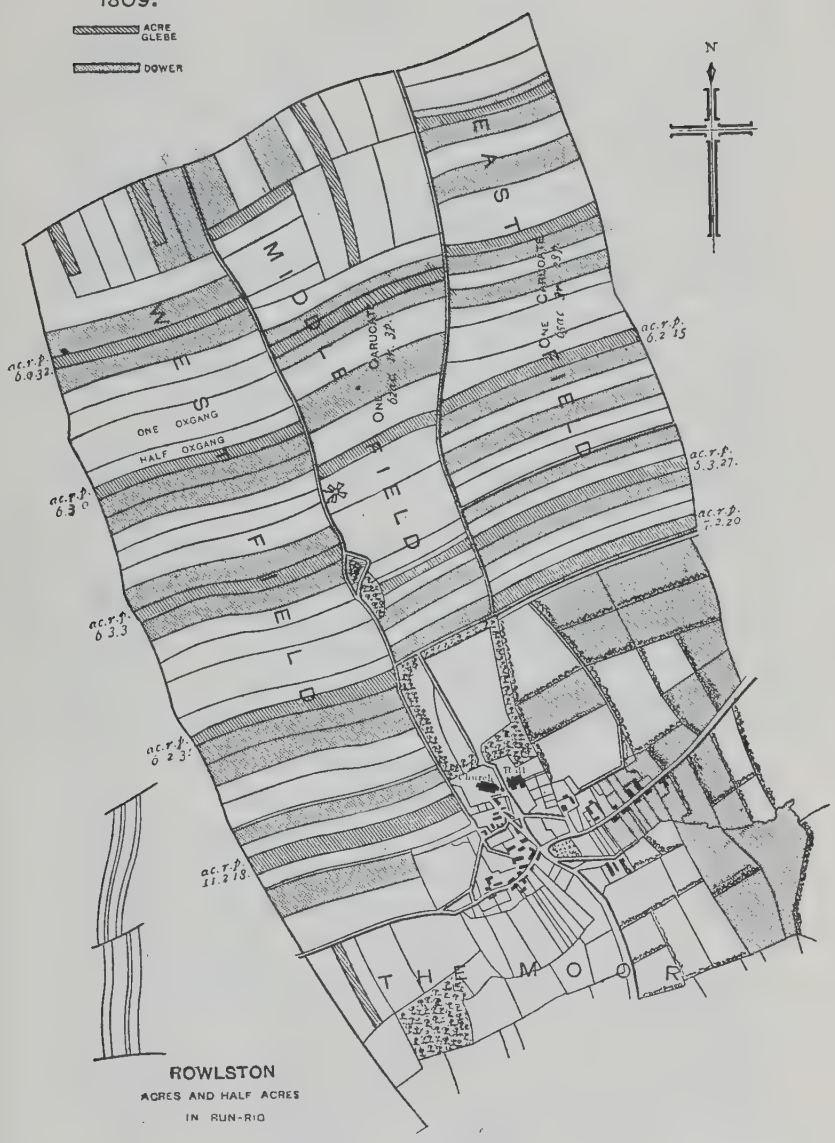
But by far the largest class of the population, at the time of the compilation of *Domesday*, was that of the villains proper; these occupied, nearly everywhere, the greater part of the lands of the manor, and the lord depended mainly upon their labour and services for

carrying out the agricultural work on his estate. The average holding of a villain in addition to his homestead, the messuage with toft and croft in the village, was a virgate or yard-land, about thirty acres, consisting of a bundle of the acre or half-acre strips distributed through the three arable fields, generally ten or twenty in each field. The distinctive feature of these holdings

TABLE AND SEAT

From a MS. in the Bodleian Library

was that the strips were not collected together into one plot, but lay interspersed in the several fields; one in this furlong or shot, another in that; and this intermixed system of ownership continued down to the time of enclosures of the open fields, although some progress had been made by exchanges and purchases towards amalgamation. This was the system which it was the object of the several Inclosure Acts



BURTON AGNES BEFORE THE ENCLOSURE OF THE COMMON FIELDS

(*v.* App. II.)

to remove. We find it stated in their preambles that

"the open and common fields lie dispersed in small pieces intermixed with each other, and inconveniently situated; that divers persons own parts of them, and are entitled to rights of common on them, so that in their present state they are incapable of improvement, and that it is desired that they may be divided and inclosed; a specific share being set out and allowed to each owner."

For this purpose Inclosure Commissioners were appointed, and, under their award, the balks were ploughed up, the fields divided into blocks for the several owners, hedges planted, and the whole face of the country changed.

It is easy to see the inconvenience and want of economy attendant on this system of scattered ownership from a modern agricultural point of view; the waste of time in getting from one part of a holding to another; the disputes about headlands and rights of way, with the frequent encroachments that would occur on the part of unscrupulous neighbours. As, however, it can be conclusively proved that this system prevailed for centuries, far back into Saxon times, some reason must be found to account for it. And first as to the proof of its early existence. In the Saxon charters it is observable that, if the grant be of certain lands within a manor or township, the boundaries given are those of the whole manor or township within which the holding is situated, showing the same could not have been a block of which the boundaries could have been given, but a bundle of strips scattered over the

township; in some instances this reason is clearly stated, as in a charter of King Ethelred the boundaries of an estate cannot be distinctly defined "because the acres are intermixed."

Mr. Seebohm advances the theory[1] that this intermixture was due to the system of co-aration; that these holdings of virgates and half-virgates were originally

FIREPLACE, SEAT, AND TABLE
From a MS. in the Bodleian Library

the shares in the results of the ploughing—the number of strips allotted to each tenant being in regard to the number of draught cattle contributed to the common plough. The team consisted as a rule of eight oxen, though in heavy land as many as twelve would be used. As so many cattle could not be kept on the small holdings of the tenants, the owners yoked their draught cattle together in a common team, each contributing one,

[1] *The English Village Community*, p. 112.

two, or more oxen as the case might be, and receiving his strips of land in a certain proportion and rotation.

In confirmation of this theory, that the scattered strips in the open fields had an intimate connection with the common team of oxen and their owners, Mr. Seebohm refers to a code of Welsh law, compiled in the tenth century, where the method of ploughing is graphically described and which shows us the system of co-aration at work. Here we find the open fields divided into strips called "erws" or acres, and separated from each other by unploughed balks of turf two furrows wide. Those who join in the co-ploughing have each to bring their share, either of oxen or plough-irons, which are in the charge of the ploughman till the end of the ploughing, and the produce of this partnership is to be divided as follows: the first acre ploughed was to go to the ploughman, the second to the irons, the third to the outside sod ox, the fourth to the outside sward ox, the fifth to the driver, the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh to the other six oxen in order of worth; and lastly the twelfth was the plough acre for ploughbote—for maintenance of the wood of the plough.

But however the system of co-ploughing may have had its influence in the distribution of the strips in the common fields, it seems more probable that this intermixture was originally due to the wish to equalize the shares of the tenantry.

"The tilth will present all kinds of accidental features according to the elevation of the ground, the direction of the watercourses and ways, the quality of the soil, the situation

of dwellings, the disposition of wood and pasture ground, etc. The whole must needs be dismembered into component parts, into smaller areas or furlongs, each stretching over land of one and the same condition and separated from land of different quality and situation. Over the irregular squares of this rough chessboard a more or less entangled network of rights and interests must be extended."[1]

The conclusion to be drawn is that the open-field system of husbandry, with its plots of scattered strips, was the result of necessity, and that it was communal in its very essence. The difficulty of preventing trespass on an open plot is obvious, but the plot must be open if one's neighbours have common rights over the same; the loss of time and difficulty of supervision involved in the tilling of some thirty scattered strips are apparent, but such arrangement is well adapted for assigning equal rights among the villagers. A dependence on one's neighbours for the result of one's own work is, to say the least, irksome, but the tangled web of rights becomes simple if considered as part of a scheme of agriculture in which each has his work allotted by the community.

"Rights of common usage, common apportionment of shares in the arable, communal arrangement of ways and means of cultivation, these are the chief features of open-field husbandry and all point to one source—the village community."[2]

To return to the holders of these plots, the virgaters or yardlings, as the villain tenants were sometimes called, it is usual to differentiate the villain of the

[1] Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 235. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 400.

Anglo-Norman period from the villain of a later date. During the earlier period the service rendered for his yard-land, his rental in fact, may be divided into week-work and boonwork; the former being an obligation to plough and do other agricultural work on the lord's demesne two to three days a week, while the latter term applied to the work done, ostensibly at the lord's request, on certain days in times of pressure, such as harvest, the number of days in a year, however, being fixed by the custom of the manor. The variations in the quotas of work due from the tenants in different manors depended on various considerations, such as the size of the lord's demesne, the number of villains, or the amount of stock on the estate. The lord owned a few ploughs and teams, but fewer in proportion to the size of his estate than those of his villains, on whose aid he depended for carrying out the main agricultural work of the manor. Having discharged his duty to his lord, the villain was at liberty to work on his own holding to provide for the wants of his family, and with the surplus produce to pay that part of his rent which the lord claimed in money or kind. There was a constant tendency to improvement in the economic condition of the villain, however much his social status might be depressed by the strict feudalism of the Norman lawyers.

The commutation of services for money payments was continually on the increase, and by the time of the Black Death (A.D. 1349) many villains by this means had attained their freedom. This event is an important landmark in the economic history of the tillers of the soil. Among the poorest of the community the ravages of the

plague were most severely felt, and the immediate effect was a scarcity of labour and a consequent corresponding rise in wages. The lords, fearing for the proper cultivation of their estates, offered a high remuneration for agricultural work, which resulted in a rise of from 50 to 60 per cent. in the rate of wages. In spite of legislation directed to control this increase, the penalties often involving the imprisonment of those demanding more than the old rate, the wage-earning class was able to hold its own against the landlords, which led to a considerable change in the relations of the two classes. The cost of working an estate was doubled or even trebled by the altered state of affairs. With the increased price of labour there was a corresponding rise in the price of implements of husbandry, and the tenants were unable to work their farms at a profit sufficient to meet the money rentals for which they had commuted their old services. This led to a universal lowering of rents, and in the end the lords were content to give up the cultivation even of their demesne lands to their tenants; this paved the way for the rise of the tenant farmer or yeoman class, which, from this time, greatly increased in numbers. The stock and land-lease system, which hitherto had prevailed chiefly on monastic manors, came now into more general use, the lord supplying a certain amount of stock with the land leased, for which the tenant had to account at the expiration of his term, thus giving him the use of a larger agricultural capital than he could otherwise command. The rise in wages affected the whole peasant class, for even those who had not yet attained their

full freedom were enabled by their larger wage-earning capacity to further commute their services, and free themselves from the more irksome restrictions on their personal liberty. But the process was gradual; the landowners on many estates made great efforts to reduce wages to their former level, and even to attempt to revert to the old services which had long since been commuted, a retrograde movement which was steadily resisted by the villain class, with whom both the free tenants and labourers fell in line. This subsequently resulted in the crisis known as the Peasants' Revolt, after which few labour dues were exacted and we may consider villainage as practically extinct, although as an old institution the shell of it survived for many generations. The name of villain gradually disappears from manorial records; the tenant is said to hold by custom or by copy of court roll, and hence called a copyholder.

To better realize the condition and status of the villain of the mediæval manor, it will be as well to briefly sum up the disabilities and advantages of his class. He was disqualified from bringing an action against his lord in the King's Courts, for they would not interfere between a lord and his villain; but a villain could not be slain or maimed by his lord; nor could the lord seize his wainage. The fine of merchet to be paid on marriage of his daughter in most manors was not large, and in some cases altogether remitted. He could not leave the manor, but this restriction was frequently evaded by successful flight to a neighbouring town; or for the small annual payment of chevage he could live outside the manor, unmolested by his

lord. He could not go to the University, or take Holy Orders, without licence; but this would be readily granted in the case of a promising youth. His goods and chattels were considered the property of his lord; but the right of seizure was seldom exercised. On the other hand, the advantages enjoyed by the villain were many: he had a house and small farm on a good and secure tenure; in the thirteenth century by a settled money rent, which, however, would be increased by alienation; the form of his holding, *temp.* Edward III., is often "to him and his heirs"; he could claim bond land as his inheritance, and settle it upon his wife and children; a widower held his deceased wife's lands by "the courtesy of England." He could purchase free land. In the fifteenth century, if not earlier, he could dispose of his land and chattels by will. Justice was brought to his door by the existence of the Manor Courts, where he could recover debts and damages for trespasses and enforce agreements; here he could bring an action for land in the nature of an *assize mort d'ancestor* or of *novel disseisin;* here land was alienated by surrender and admittance; here matters of importance to the community were regulated and decided; here offenders against the king's peace were punished.

"And the judgments delivered were not those of the lord or his steward, but of the court, composed of villains as well as freemen. Altogether, however unprotected the villain might be under the common law against his lord, he was by no means dependent upon his mere caprice; but was ruled in accordance with the custom of the manor, defined by the tenants themselves."[1]

[1] Massingberd, *Court Rolls of Ingoldsmells.*

Even as early as Edward I. the law was on the side of freedom, and bondage was no part of the common law, but rather existed by sufferance and local usage. A fugitive villain, or land-loper as he was called, could with difficulty be recovered in a summary manner. The sheriff could not detain him by his writ of *neifty*[1] if he chose to deny his bondage: his case would then stand over for the Assizes or it might be argued out in the Court of Common Pleas. In the meantime, if he could obtain an asylum in some privileged town for a year and a day, no further process could be taken against him. On the other hand, there were many ways in which he might obtain his freedom by want of caution on the part of his lord. He was enfranchised if his lord vested the ownership of land in him, if he received homage from him or gave him a bond. Allowing his villain to be on a jury, to enter religion, or to remain a year and a day in ancient demesne were all constructive manumissions of the villain tenants.

The disappearance of villainage in England was a gradual process. It has been estimated by a rough calculation that in 1300 the serfs in England numbered two-thirds of the population; by the middle of the sixteenth century the bulk of the population was practically free, and the condition of serfdom was looked upon as anomalous; in fact, it may be said never to have had a tangible existence in England. Occasionally in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries "some special pecuniary necessities of an impecunious lord led him or his steward to hunt up old claims much as

[1] The writ of *de nativo habendo* was sued out by a lord for the recovery of a villain who had fled from the manor.

the King was doing in a higher sphere"; but Harrison, writing in 1580, declares:—

"As for slaves and bondmen we have none, such is the privilege of our country by the especial grace of God and bounty of our princes, that if any come hither from other realms, so soon as they set foot on land they become so free of condition as their masters, whereby all acts of servile bondage is utterly removed from them."

The definite ways by which villainage was decreased have already been noticed, such as the voluntary manumissions by lords, emancipation by successful flight, and the practical grant of freedom through the action of the King's Courts; but these individual cases would not account for the rapid decline of serfdom during the two centuries following the Black Death. The fact is that the *raison d'être* of serfdom—the need of a constant supply of labourers—had passed away; the legal rights to the services of his tenants remained with the lord, but he had ceased to value them.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries if a tenant died without relations, or his land, by other means, came into the lord's hands, it was regranted to another tenant to hold by the old services according to the custom of the manor; in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries it was similarly granted for a small money rent. No act of general emancipation appears on our statute-book, no definite abolition was necessary as in France in the eighteenth century and as in Russia within our own time. True that in the charters of pardon to the rebels after the Peasants' Revolt some general clauses of emancipation were inserted, the after-

withdrawal of which was ratified by Parliament. By the sixteenth century villainage, as at least a condition of servitude, had become an anachronism; the late manumissions of Elizabeth's reign, although preserving the old legal *formulæ* expressive of bondage, "meant only the relief of the bondmen from an opprobrious appellation, or, at most, making more secure the tenure of their lands"—it was as the clearing away of the débris of a fallen structure. In fine, bondage did not need to be abolished, it gradually faded away together with the system of which it was an integral part, and became a memory only to the men of the seventeenth century.

The name, however, and some of the incidents of bondage lingered on in remote parts of the country, as in the case of the "bondagers," which existed within living memory on the large holdings of the Northumberland estates, described in the *View of Northumberland* (E. Mackenzie, 1825). The farms were of considerable extent, and the farmhouses were separated from each other at a distance of from two to three miles. In these the farmers resided surrounded by their dependents, nearly all the cottages of one or mostly two rooms being occupied by the bondagers. On each farm were a steward, a hind, having care of the implements of husbandry, horses, cattle, etc., and lastly the bondagers, who dwelt at the onstead or neighbouring village. They had their cottages at an under rent, and were entitled to the produce of a certain quantity of potatoes. For these advantages they were bound to find a person when required to

assist in cutting the corn, haymaking, hoeing and pulling turnips, spreading manure, and serving the threshing machine at lower daily wages than were usual in the country. The bondage service was mostly performed by the female part of the family or by children. The hind, and sometimes the steward, was obliged to find a person for bondage work on the same terms.

In addition to the foregoing classes of tenants, the Domesday commissioners were instructed to return the number of freemen and sokemen in each vill. It has before been pointed out how many freemen, through holding lands to which rustic services were attached, would be classed as villains, and it is to be remembered that

"among the aspects from which the Domesday inquest surveyed society, one of the most important is the attempt to consider all social relations from the point of view of tenure, to reduce them to varieties of conditional land holding."[1]

It is difficult, from the nomenclature of *Domesday*, to determine the exact status of the classes returned as freemen and sokemen in the Survey. Roughly speaking, the distinguishing features of their tenure were that their rents were fixed, whether in money or services; they were free to alienate their lands and to quit the manor if so inclined. It is thought also that the service which gave the sokeman his character was his liability to suit at the lord's court, being subject to the "soke" or jurisdiction exercised by a lord.

[1] Vinogradoff, *Growth of the Manor*, p. 292.

There is little doubt but that some of these were descendants of families who had held their land from time immemorial, being allodial or heirland; but the increase in the number of this class, which is apparent during the next few centuries, demands explanation. It is conjectured that they were recruited from three sources: (1) The lord would have his friends, as those who had done him some service or had filled important posts in his household, to whom, in reward, he would allot some portion of his demesne to be held of him either by military service, a small annual money rent, or some definite but honourable service, as the presenting of a rose, a pound of pepper, or a sparrow-hawk; and in some cases by giving definite agricultural assistance at certain seasons. (2) Those who, originally belonging to the villain class, but had been manumitted by formal deed or had commuted their services for a money payment, thereby entering into a definite agreement with their lord, or by any other act of constructive manumission recognized by the common law had entitled themselves to be accounted freemen. (3) As the population increased, or strangers came to settle on the manor, portions of the uncleared land would be continually taken into cultivation, and granted to these settlers or squatters; not fitting into the original plan of possession and service of the manor, such settlers would hold land with exceptional advantages such as exemption from service, etc.

As the manor settled down under the gradual process of feudalization, the free tenantry became an integral and important part of the manorial system. It became

a legal maxim that, without at least two free men as suitors, the Court Baron could not be held, and the manor lapsed; the freeholders of the manor were called the homagers and sat with the lord, or his representative the steward in the Manorial Court, virtually as judges.

The tenure, by which the freeholder held his land, came in time to be distinguished by legal writers as tenure in free socage, and to denote an estate held by any certain and determinate service, as by fealty and a money rent, or by homage and fealty without rent.

It is probable that these tenures were the relics of Saxon liberty, retained by such persons as had neither forfeited them to the Conqueror, nor had been forced to exchange them for the more honourable but burthensome tenure of knight service. And this theory receives confirmation if we consider the peculiar customs which are attached to certain tenures held to be in socage, such as Gavelkind and Borough English, the preservation whereof inviolate from a time anterior to the Conquest is a fact universally acknowledged. Gavelkind, which mostly prevails in Kent and the south-eastern parts of England, where, as is well known, the ancient free customs were defended with the greatest vigour and success, had, among others, these distinguishing properties: (1) The tenant was of age sufficient to alienate his estate by deed at fifteen. (2) The estate did not escheat in case of attainder and execution for felony;[1] but only in case of failure of heirs. (3) In most places the tenant had the power of devising lands by will before the statute for that

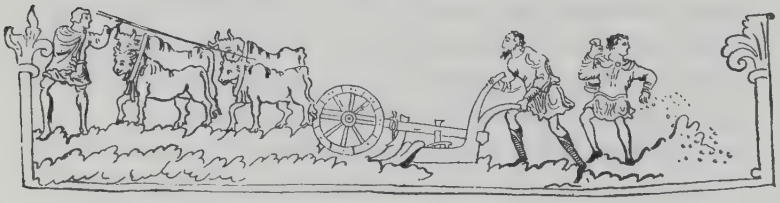
[1] "The father to the bough, the son to the plough."

purpose was made. (4) The lands descended not to the eldest, youngest, or any one son only, but each son as heir took an equal share; whereas by the custom of Borough English (so named in contradistinction to the Norman customs) which prevails in certain ancient boroughs, the youngest son and not the eldest succeeds to the tenement on the death of his father. The tenure to which this latter custom is attached is called burgage, and is indeed a species of town socage and appears to have been another instance of free tenure which withstood the shock of Norman encroachment. Even so late as 1713, the town of Nottingham was divided into the English borough and the French—in the one real property descending to the youngest son in "Burgh-Engloyes"; in the other to the eldest by the ordinary law which they termed "Burgh-Francoyes." This custom of Borough English prevails even at the present day in some southern counties, especially in Sussex, and is extended even to collateral branches under the name of "junior right," so that not only the youngest son in direct descent, but the youngest nephew can claim inheritance under it; in the rape of Lewes the custom is almost universal. There are many variations of the custom in different manors: in those of Dorking and Milton, in Surrey, where the tenant has no sons, the youngest brother is admitted to the exclusion of his elder brothers; in other manors this junior right is extended to females, as in those of Fulham, Wimbledon, Barnes, and Richmond.

The mixed tenures, touched on above, existed as we have seen in pre-Domesday times, and can be traced

right through to the later stages of manorial history, when we constantly find tenants holding by deed and paying a yearly money rent, bound at the same time to find labour at certain seasons. As for example at Ibstone, Oxon (thirteenth century), Henry Perys held half a virgate in fee by deed; he paid a rent of 5*s.* 6*d.* per ann. and three capons at the feast of St. Thomas Apostle, and had to find a man to reap for three days in autumn at his own costs, with other services. In the same manor Alice, widow of Nicholas Canon, holding several parcels of land at a yearly rent, had to find two men in autumn for a week, and for the lord's boon days two men, the lord providing their food; also, she had to find labour for the washing and shearing of the lord's sheep, and for ploughing and harrowing at the winter and Lent sowings, with other services. Manorial records teem with similar instances. For a satisfactory explanation of this seeming anomaly, it is necessary to consider some facts in the early history of rent and customary tenure. In pre-Domesday times the general name for the oblation or money payment—now constituting the entire render, but then only a subordinate part—was gafol, gavol, or land gable; land at farm was gafolland; freehold was ungavoled, land not subject to rent. The gable, about 1*d.* per acre, was only a part of the price paid for the use of the land, the rest being worked out by the tenants; when the work was light or not constant, the tenants were bound in an increased oblation which was distinguished as "mail," and the tenants paying such were denominated, as in the *Boldon Book*, "mailmen" or "molmen." In the

Domesday of St. Paul's "worklond," when the rent is paid chiefly in labour, is opposed to "mollond," when the rent is paid chiefly in money. In the centuries following the Conquest, we find a change going on in those tenements where the above customs prevailed, and lands held subject to either labour or silver at the lord's discretion, until we arrive at the period, about the thirteenth century, when both the rent and the labour became a fixed charge on the holding.



EARLY ANGLO-SAXON PLOUGHING

INTERIOR OF THE HALL, GREAT MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE

CHAPTER V

THE OFFICERS AND SERVANTS OF THE MANOR

THE following description of some of the principal officers who superintended the work of the manor is mainly drawn from the work of Sir Walter de Henley.

The steward's duty is to hold the Manor Courts and View of Frankpledge, and there to inquire if there be any withdrawals of customs, services, and rents,

or of suits to the lord's courts, markets, and mills, and as to alienations of lands. He is also to check the amount of seed required by the reeve for each manor, for under the steward there may be several manors.

On his appointment he must make himself acquainted with the condition of the manorial ploughs and plough teams. He must see that the land is properly arranged, whether on the three-field or two-field system, and the ploughing regulated accordingly.

Besides the manorial ploughs and plough teams, he must know how many tenant or villain ploughs there are, and how often they are bound to aid the lord in each manor. He is also to inquire as to the stock in each manor, whereof an inventory indented is to be drawn up between him and the reeve, and as to any deficiency of beasts, which he is at once to make good with the lord's consent.

The best husbandman is to be elected by the villains as Reeve, and he is to be responsible for the cultivation of the arable land. He must see that the ploughs are yoked early in the morning—both the demesne and villain ploughs—and that the land is properly ploughed and sown. He is a villain tenant and acts on behalf of the villains, but is overlooked by the lord's bailiff.

The Bailiff's duties are stated to be: To rise early and have the ploughs yoked, then to walk in the fields to see that all is right. He is to inspect the ploughs, whether those of the demesne or the villain or auxiliary ploughs, seeing that they be not unyoked before their day's work ends, failing which he will be called to

REEVE DIRECTING THE LABOURS OF REAPERS

account. At sowing time, he and the Reaper must go with the ploughs through the whole day's work, until they have completed their proper quantity of ploughing for the day, which is to be measured, and if the Ploughman have made any errors or defaults and can make no excuses the Reaper is to see that such faults do not go uncorrected and unpunished.

The Hayward is to be an active and sharp man; he must rise early and look after and go round and keep the woods, corn and meadows, and other things belonging to his office, and he is to superintend the sowing. He is to look after the customary tenants that they come and do the work they are bound to do; in haytime he is to overlook the mowers, and in August assemble the reapers and the labourers, and see that the corn is properly gathered, and watch early and late that nothing be stolen or eaten by beasts or spoilt. In earlier times he attended to the fences and hedges, and was answerable for stray cattle, which it was his duty to impound. This office was often combined with that of Beadle, the verger of the Manorial Court. He was accustomed to superintend the work in the hay and harvest fields, carrying his rod or verge. He was allowed provender for his horse when serving writs and summonses.

The Ploughman is to be a man of intelligence, and should know how to repair broken ploughs and harrows, and to till the land well; he should know how to yoke and drive the oxen without beating or hurting them, and he should forage them well; he must ditch the land so that it may be drained; and he must not

carry fire into byres for light or warmth, nor have any light there except in a lantern.

The Waggoner must know his trade and keep his horses and curry them, and he must not overload, overwork, or overdrive them; and must know how to mend his harness and the gear of his waggon; and he shall sleep every night with his horses, as the oxherd with his oxen.

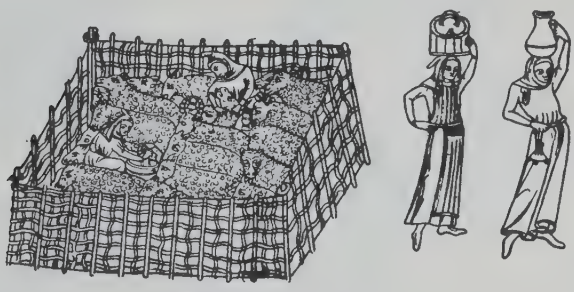
The Cowherd must be skilful, knowing his business and keeping his cows well, and foster the calves from the time of weaning. And he must see that he has fine bulls of good breed, pastured with the cows to mate when they will; and no cow to be milked or allowed to suckle her calf after Michaelmas, for the cows will thus become weak, and mate later the next year. And every year from each vaccary the old cows, and the barren, and the young that do not promise well, have to be sorted out and sold.

The Swineherd should only be kept in those manors where swine can be kept in the forest, woods, waste, or marshes without sustenance from the grange. It may be cited that at Sturminster Newton the swineherd claimed the head, feet, and all but the lard and bacon of the second best pig killed for the lord, and had allowance of a young pig called a "marking hog."

The Shepherd must enclose his fold with hurdles and keep it in good repair; he should sleep in the fold, he and his dog, and he should pasture his sheep well, and keep them in forage and watch them well, so that they be not killed by dogs, stolen, or lost; nor let them pasture in moors or bogs to get sickness or

disease; he should not leave his sheep to go to fairs, markets, wrestling matches, wakes, or the tavern, without putting a good keeper in his place that no harm may arise.

The Shepherd might be a hired servant, but more often he was a tenant who gave his services as rent for his holding, with certain allowances. Thus at Winterborne he was allowed a lamb and a fleece, and had the lord's fold on his land for twelve days at Christmas



WOMEN MILKING EWES
From the "Louttrel Psalter"

for the sake of the manure; he had occasional use of the lord's plough; fifteen sheep in the lord's fold and their milk if mother sheep, and as much as a woman milker; his wife was *dey* or mistress of the dairy, and he had to find a milkmaid: his dog had daily a cup of newly-drawn whey from Hocktide to the 1st August. Walter of Henley recommends the lord to watch if the sheep are scared at the approach of the shepherd, as, if so, he is no good shepherd.

The Dairymaid should be of good repute, and keep herself clean and know her business well; how to

make cheese and salt cheese, and to save and keep the vessels of the dairy that it need not be necessary to renew them every year. And she should help in the winnowing of the corn when she can be present, and take care of the geese and hens, and answer for the returns.

Besides the reeve, who as mentioned above was chosen by the tenants themselves, there were several

BAKEHOUSE

From a MS. in the Bodleian Library

other officers elected by them at the Manor Courts to serve for longer or shorter periods, generally for a year.

The most important of these was the Tithing Man, Headborough, or Constable, chosen at the Court Leet, whose duty it was to summon juries, arrest vagabonds and night-walkers, distrain on the goods of defaulters, and generally to preserve in his district the king's peace.

The Ale-tasters were appointed at the same court, to see that the brewers within their districts brewed wholesome beer of requisite strength and purity; that they did not sell at excessive price, nor use false measures, and generally to see that the Assize of Beer was not broken in their locality. The Assize of Bread and Beer was a franchise conferred on lords of manors from a very early period, the frauds in these trades being severely punished; by a statute of Henry III., a baker breaking the Assize was liable to be condemned to the pillory, and knavish brewers to the tumbril or dung-cart—in later times these punishments were commuted for a fine in the Manor Court.

The Carpenter and Smith were usually tenants who gave their services in quittance of rent. The carpenter at South Brent had to make a plough and harrow out of his own timber, and assisted the tenants in making the carts. The smith, besides assisting the carpenter in the making of ploughs, was usually bound to shoe certain of the lord's horses, a palfrey and an "aver" or draught horse; if one died, the skin became his to make bellows; he had to sharpen the scythes of the mowers in hay time, and for this service at Chalgrove he had an acre of meadow. At Winterborne he had to repair and bind with iron the vessels for making cheese, and for this he received yearly a lamb and a fleece, and a cheese made before St. John's Day; also a dish of butter wherewith to grease his bellows.

There were also appointed Surveyors of hedges, and of ditches and watercourses; the former to see that the temporary hedges, erected at certain seasons about the

LONG SETTLE AND TABLE
From a MS. in the Bodleian Library

holdings of the tenants, were duly made and kept in repair, and the latter to inspect the watercourses in the manor, to see that they were kept open and well scoured.

Mr. Gomme has pointed out (*Index to Municipal Offices*) that the appellations of many municipal officers in our towns carry us back to their remote origin as agricultural or manorial communities. The Keeper of the Green-Yard is still an officer of the Corporation of London, and the Greenyard in Whitecross Street represents the pound of the ancient township. The Pound Keeper is an officer met with in many of our present boroughs. Sir Henry Maine (*Early History of Institutions*) observes that "there is no more ancient institution in the country than the village pound: it is far older than the King's Bench and probably older than the Kingdom." There is a Keeper of the Pinfold at Alnwick, and a Pindar is found in nine other boroughs. The Pindar of Wakefield is the hero of a popular local legend, commencing—

> "In Wakefield there lives a jolly Pindar,
> In Wakefield all on a green."

In many instances the duties attaching to one office have been merged in those of another, and the significance of the older office and appellation has been lost. The Pindar of Cambridge regulates the commons in addition to his ordinary duties; the Pindar of Doncaster accompanies the Mayor and Corporation to church on state occasions of their visit; and the Pindar of Scarborough unites the office with that of Verger of the Church.

The office of Hayward is still extant in fifteen boroughs. At Aberavon there are four, whose duties are clearly defined: two are to distrain all cattle trespassing on the common land of the borough, and the remaining two are to turn the cattle of certain burgesses into the after-grass of the enclosed lands on the 17th September, and to turn them out into the unenclosed land on the 25th March.

As further instances of these offices of manorial origin, we may mention the Herd of Alnwick, the Noltherds of Newcastle-on-Tyne, the Swineherd of Shrewsbury, and the Neatherds of Doncaster. There are also those which remind us of the meadows and wastes of the early township: the Pasture Masters of Beverley and York, the Moor Grieves of Alnwick, and the Woodwards of Havering and Nottingham are representatives of the class. It is needless to enumerate the Ale-tasters, Bread-weighers, Constables, and Beadles, who to this day hold more or less sinecure offices in our ancient towns.

As time went on, manorial administration became a matter of increasing difficulty. There were fewer candidates for the posts of responsibility, such as those of Reeve, Hayward, or Beadle; we find notices in the Court Rolls that such a one has refused to serve the office to which he has been elected or appointed; the duties of collecting fines and the like became irksome to the tenants, and they willingly paid an advanced rent to be quit of these unpopular duties. Then there was the further difficulty of finding a man capable of "making a reeve's reckoning," so that the lords often

found it more expedient to farm or lease the whole manor; these lessees, who subsequently became known as gentlemen-farmers, often turned out oppressive and unfaithful. Brakelond, in his Chronicle, has the following anecdote of the Abbot of Bury:—

"As Abbot Sampson soon after his accession was travelling between London and Bury St. Edmunds he met an old woman, and having heard from her that the manor which he was passing through belonged to the Abbot of Bury, he next asked a question or two about the farmer, and was told that the farmer was a demon alive, an enemy to God and a scourge to the men of the country, but that just then he was treating them reasonably out of dread of the new Abbot of Bury, whom he believed to be wary and wise. The Abbot smiled when he had heard this story, and did not take the manor into his own hand immediately."

SHEPHERDS AND FLOCK

CHAPTER VI

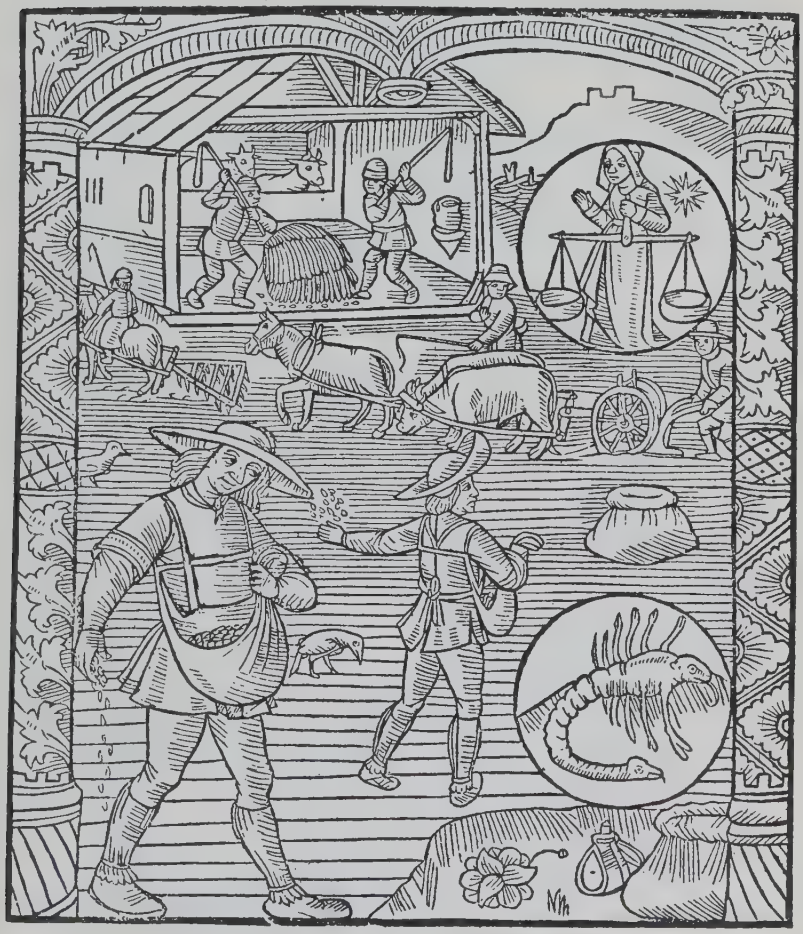
WORK AND RECREATION OF THE MANOR

MICHAELMAS, or the period after harvest, was the natural commencement of the farming year, when new leases were entered on, and the then universal system of husbandry compelled the sowing of the winter field.

> "At Michaelmas lightly new farmer comes in,
> New husbandrie forceth him now to begin."

The first work was the ploughing of the wheat field, while the other two fields lay in stubble; at its completion, the sowing of the winter wheat and rye was taken in hand. The timber which had been brought in by the carts of the tenantry was now chopped up and stowed in ricks. The cattle, at the completion of the ploughing, were brought in from their pasture and stalled in their sheds for the winter, to be watched over by the ploughman, whose duty it was to fill the ox-bins with hay and water, and throw out the manure. The duties of the swineherd at this season were to bring in from the swinepens in the woods all the weaker animals, and sows that had littered, and properly house them in the pig-stye of the manor. The winter's preparation of food entailed

the slaughtering of beasts and swine, and the curing of the carcasses. Threshing was also a winter employment; not only the grain, but the peas and beans were threshed; the grain was bruised with flails similar to



OCTOBER: PLOUGHING, SOWING, AND THRESHING

those even now in use, and winnowed by hand; women being frequently employed, as appears in the bailiffs' accounts. Wheat and rye were the ordinary food-stuffs

NOVEMBER: PREPARING WINTER STORES

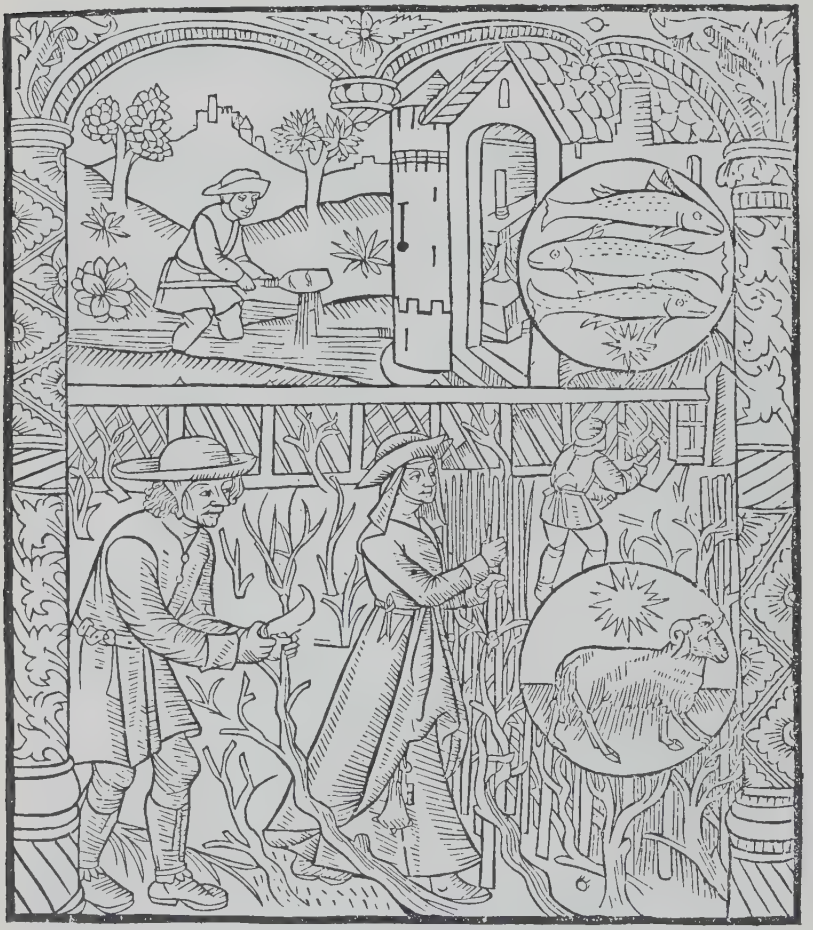
of the people, malted barley being, of course, used for brewing.

On the break up of winter, the main work of the year began, usually in February, with the spring ploughing of the second field, in preparation for the spring sowing of peas, beans, and vetches, or oats and barley.

This ploughing was the week's work of the customary tenants, and lasted from Candlemas to Easter, the stubble, since the previous August, having been the feeding ground of hens, sheep and other stock. The ploughman began his work at daybreak, when he took the oxen from the cowherd, and yoked and joined them to the plough. Except in heavy ground, eight oxen seem to have been the normal team; the plough was of rude construction, made on the estate by the carpenter and the smith, the costliest parts being the share and the iron tips protecting the wooden frame. The oxen, as depicted in ancient illustrations, were small and short-horned, which is perhaps accounted for by poor food, want of care in housing, and absence of all knowledge of cross breeding. There were a driver and a leader of the team to each plough. The ploughing was probably shallow; the high price of iron, and rude construction of the plough, would preclude any very effectual overturning of the soil.

Those tenants not engaged in ploughing found their spring duties awaiting them in the enclosures of the lord's demesne. The manor usually possessed a garden and an orchard; in the former were grown leeks, onions, mustard and peas, and the produce of the latter is mentioned in bailiffs' accounts, apples

being largely grown for cider; the permanent hedges would have to be repaired, and the garden plants and herbs set out. The sowing of seed followed immediately after, if it did not accompany, the spring ploughing;

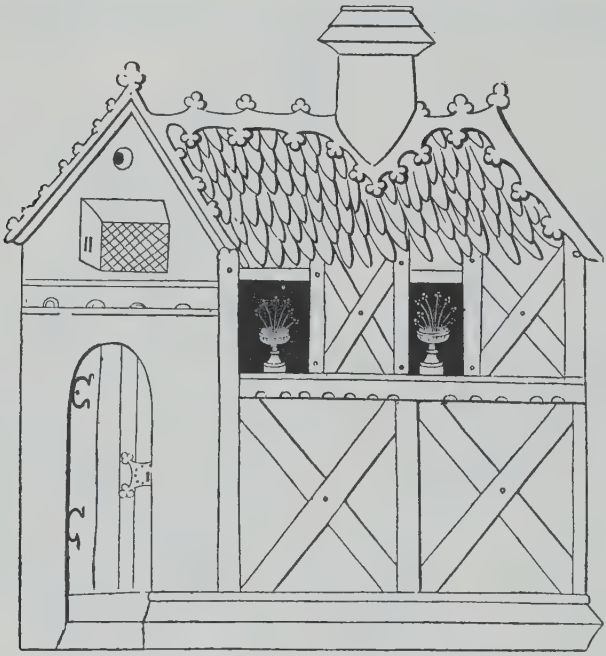


MARCH: LOPPING TREES

and then commenced, about May or June, the preparation of the third field in fallow. The land was ditched with a view to draining, and dressed with manure from the cattle-pens, marl and lime being some-

JUNE: SHEEP-SHEARING

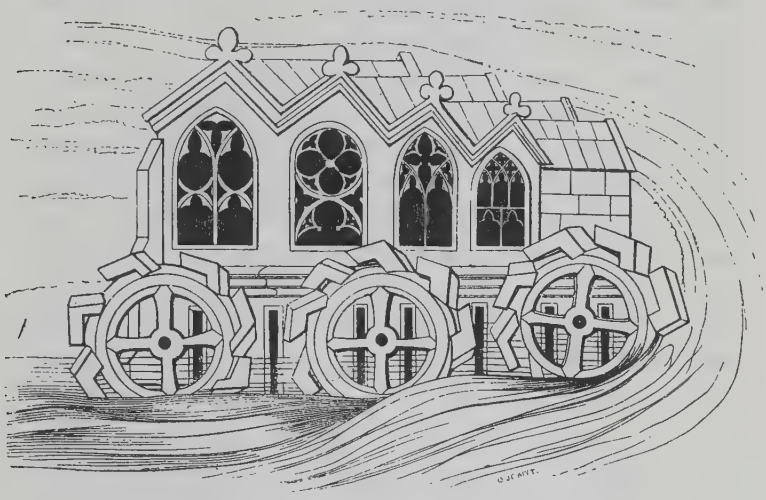
times used on stiff soils. In the summer months weeding was undertaken ; and after Midsummer, the annual washing and sheep-shearing engaged the labours of certain of the tenants, women being often employed for this work.



TIMBER HOUSE
From a Douce MS.

Building operations were also carried out at this season ; each tenant was bound to keep his dwelling in proper repair at the risk of being presented and fined at the manorial court ; for this purpose the tenants were allowed their "estovers" in the lord's

woods, entailing the felling of timber and carriage of the same, a certain portion being handed to the wheelwright or carpenter for the construction of ploughs and tools. It was also a time for the setting up of folds and pens and for the making of weirs. Last of all the summer duties was the repairing of the mill, which



WATER MILL
From the MS. of the "Romance of Alexander" in the Bodleian Library

formed a necessary feature of every estate, and was generally farmed out by the lord, the miller taking his toll of the tenants, upon whom it was compulsory to bring their grain there to be ground.

An interesting subject,[1] which can only be briefly touched upon here, is the origin, progress, and extinction of the milling soke—the right or privilege of landowners of building and working corn or other mills,

[1] *The History of Corn Milling* (Bennett and Elton) exhaustively treats of this subject.

the tenants being bound to give all their grinding custom to such mills. This jurisdiction arose by purely manorial local custom and not by statute. No injustice was involved by the compulsion of tenants, in early times, to grind at mills built especially for their convenience. But the necessity for these manorial mills gradually disappeared, and they were retained by the lords solely as lucrative sources of profit.

In some instances mills were granted to monasteries, on the condition that the neighbouring poor should be fed by the religious. The lords of manors were accustomed to requisition the services of their tenants, both for the necessary repair of their mills, and for the labour required to take the lord's corn to be ground, or carrying it for sale to the market. This manorial privilege of the milling soke was in many instances allowed to lapse by the owners, and in other the rights were purchased by the community.

WIND MILL

From the MS. of the "Romance of Alexander" in the Bodleian Library

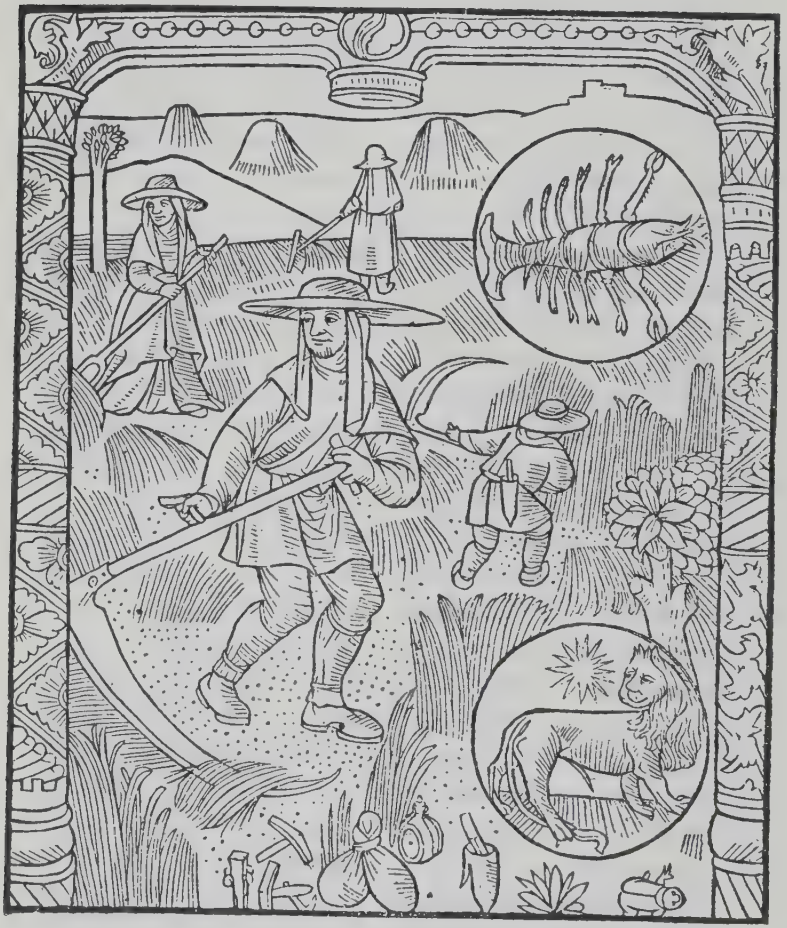
These mills were of two kinds, water and wind mills, the latter being the more common. Occasionally, as in the Bicester Priory Accounts, mention is made of a horse mill. The structure was usually of timber, and the most costly portions were the millstones, which were often of foreign origin, the price of which would be

enhanced by expenses attending the purchase and carriage of the same from London or other nearer and more available port. It is probable that in early times the mill was intended only for the corn grown on the demesne lands, and that hand mills were used by the tenants; but, as in the case of the Abbot of Peterborough and his tenantry in the thirteenth century, the use of these hand mills was discouraged and gradually suppressed in the interest of the lord, who counted the farm of the mill as one of his most profitable returns.

The summer tasks being ended, the important work of gathering in the various crops, lasting during August, September, and October, commenced; reaping and mowing now became the order of the day. The hay was mowed by the service of the customary tenants, generally assisted by hired labour, often obtained from a distance; it was gathered into ricks and, as now, cut into trusses. Barley, oats, peas, and beans were also mowed, and these crops having been cleared, the work of the harvest commenced at the end of July by the reaping of rye and wheat, which were cut rather high in the stalk with sickles, leaving the stubble to be mown after the crop was gathered. Provisions and beer in certain quantities were allowed to the harvesters according to the custom of the manor, and a feast or harvest-home was the usual termination of the operations, which occupied a period of a month or six weeks, according to the season.

One important duty of the tenants, which is constantly referred to as part of the regular routine work

of the manor in spring, summer, and autumn, was that of hedging, and the reason is obvious. The open fields of arable land, when the seed had been sown, until the time that the crop was harvested, required



JULY; MOWING

protection; the growing grass in the meadows must also be kept from the depredations of cattle, and each tenant was therefore bound to see that his holding was properly fenced, so that his neighbours should

AUGUST: REAPING

not suffer by his neglect. The hedges were indeed but of a temporary character, but for all that entailed a fair amount of labour. An old writer on husbandry (John Fitzherbert) gives the following advice, which illustrates the nature of the fencing:—

"Thou must get the stakes of the heart of oak for those be best; crabtree, blackthorn and alder be good; reed withy is best in marshe ground, ash, maple, hazel and white thorn will serve for a time. And set thy stakes within two foot and a half together except thou have very good 'edderinge' and longe to bind with. And if it be double-eddered it is much the best and great strength to the hedge and much longer it will last. And lay thy small trouse or thornes, that thou hedgest withal over thy quickset that sheep do not eat the spring nor budds of thy settes, &c."

During the early part of the fall, these hedges were partly or entirely removed, and the cattle were allowed to wander over the stubble, as they were again in the following spring before the sowing of the crops, after which the hedges were set up or repaired, as the case might be. It was the duty of the hedgeward or hayward to superintend these operations, which were almost continuous throughout the year, and it is interesting to note that for these services he received an allotment of strips in the arable land, so situated that they lay on the outskirts, and adjoining the pastures where the oxen were feeding, so that, on any neglect of his duties, the damage would fall on his own holding first.

Having reviewed the routine of work on a mediæval estate, which, we have reason to believe, continued with

but slight modifications from the Saxon period till the sixteenth century, we may now glance at the recreations which relieved the monotony of manorial life. And first, we may mention the relaxation from work which

SEPTEMBER: GATHERING FRUIT AND PRESSING GRAPES

the Church enjoined at her great festivals. As early as the days of King Alfred, the following were appointed for observance: Twelve days at Yule; the day on which Christ overcame the devil (February 15); the commemoration day of St. Gregory (March 12); the seven days before Easter and the seven days after; one day at St. Peter's and St. Paul's tide (June 29); in

PART OF A HOUSE, SHOWING THE SITUATION OF SOLAR OR LORD'S CHAMBER
From a fourteenth-century MS. in the British Museum

harvest, a full week before St. Mary's Mass (September 8); one day at All Hallows, and the four Wednesdays in the four Ember Weeks. A study of manorial records of a later period shows that there were certain feasts given by the lord, which appear to have been regarded as the right of his tenants, and in the number and character of which great uniformity prevailed; one of these occurring at the end of the ploughing and the

other at the time of the harvest gathering, which latter would correspond with the week before St. Mary's Mass of the laws of Alfred. The benfeorm (the "bean-feast" of modern days) was a dinner or corrody given at the end of the precations or special works required of the tenants at harvest times. This custom was prevalent on the estates of the Bishop of Durham early in the twelfth century.

In the accounts of the manor of Bocking, in Essex (thirteenth century), is an estimate of the cost of the autumnal precations or boon days. The expense of the food provided for the reapers is weighed against the value of their work, and there is a balance in the lord's favour of $5\frac{3}{4}d.$ The tenants owe for two bedrips or reapings in autumn, 146 men, whose works are worth at $2d.$ a man $27s.$ $8d.$, and they were to have towards the doing of said work 5 seams and 3 bushels of wheat and rye, worth $17s.$ $11d.$; at the first bedrip, a carcass of beef worth $5s.$; at the second bedrip, 200 herrings, worth $1s.$; in addition there were provided $21\frac{1}{2}$ cheeses worth $2s.$ $9\frac{1}{4}d.$, 2 bushels of peas $5d.$, with salt and garlic $1d.$ This was a dry bedrip; it would be a wet or ale bedrip if the lord allowed good liquor.

At Chalgrove, Oxon (Hundred Rolls), a yard-lander reaped at the two precations in autumn with all his household except his wife and shepherd. Two repasts were provided: at "nones," a wheaten loaf, pottage, meat, and salt; at supper, bread and cheese and beer, and enough of it, with a candle while the reapers were inclined to sit. The last day of the bedrip was the grand day. At Piddington the tenants on that day

came accompanied by their wives, furnished with napkins, dishes, platters, cups, and other necessary articles (Kennet's *Parochial Antiquities*).

In 1222 each reaper at Wickham, in Essex, had a loaf and a half to himself, and they had in common a cheese and a good ram ; a sheep was often the reward of reaping, mutton being in season on St. John's Day.

The festival of the patron saint of the church would be annually observed as a holiday ; and the wake or fair, sometimes by prescription, but more often as a franchise by grant of the Crown, was held at or near this celebration. We must not omit to mention the hospitalities of Christmas. At Pennard, one of the manors of Glastonbury Abbey, a tenant could have at his "gest" or "revel" at Christmas, ten loaves, ten pieces of meat, five of pork and five of beef, and ten men as his guests drinking in the lord's hall. In some manors there were reciprocal courtesies at this season between the lord and his tenants. At Huntercombe, Oxon, it was the custom for the tenant to present his lord with a loaf, half a gallon of ale, and a cock and hen ; and then he, with his wife and another, dined with the lord. The *Domesday of St. Paul's* and the *Boldon Book* contain entries of the custom of having waits or watchmen at this season ; one tenant is bound to watch one night in the lord's hall, for which he has a whole loaf, a cooked dish, and a gallon of ale.

Other festive occasions, such as Hocktide, Michaelmas, or Martinmas, usually set apart for the holding of a law day or court leet, were followed by a feast called a leet-ale or scot-ale, where all persons present paid

a fee or scot to furnish the feast, or for the benefit of some officer. In a Glastonbury Rental of the thirteenth century we find the scot-ale at the Deverells, Wiltshire, sometimes lasted for three days: on the last day the bachelors could drink freely without payment, as long as they could stand; if they sat down, they must pay.

The relaxation of the tenant occasionally took the form of poaching on the lord's demesne. The gentle art of "tickling" perch in the lord's pond occurs as one of the offences committed by a tenant in the precedents of manorial courts (see p. 133), and entries such as the following are frequently to be met with on the Rolls:— At Whitwell manor, in Norfolk, 1339, "William de Middleton entered unlawfully and without licence the lord's manor, and with dogs and bow slew and put to flight the lord's pheasants, and fished the lord's water likewise, for which he is in mercy." Some of the offenders belong to a class in which we should not expect to find such delinquents, and the sporting cleric appears as much in evidence in the thirteenth as in later centuries. In the Durham Halmote Rolls (1378) Robt. Chauncellor, Sir John Carles, and William Powys, chaplains, are presented as common hunters, and as having taken hares in the field of Acley. There are similar presentments against Sir John Grey and others in Pittington. At Hesylden (1374) William de Marton, the vicar there, with others, presumably his parishioners, has hunted in the warren of the lord prior and taken hares many times. Tenants were strictly forbidden to keep greyhounds for coursing purposes.

But the cases of poaching are scarcely so numerous

as might be expected in the general run of Manor Court Rolls. Occasionally whole files, extending over many reigns, from Edward III. onwards, may be looked over, as is the case with the Staffordshire Rolls of Yoxall and Alrewas, and only a few isolated instances occur at long intervals. Possibly such a state of things may often denote a general sympathy with offences of such a nature; and another explanation is that so large a part of England, naturally in the very districts where game abounded, was under forest law, and in such cases all game trespass, bearing of bows, setting of snares, or keeping unwarranted dogs came under the cognizance of the forest ministers and were withdrawn from manor court jurisdiction. For instance, at the Duffield court leet (Duffield being an extensive Derbyshire parish, the greater part of which was within the Forest of Duffield), held in 1337, two offenders were charged with coney catching, but it was objected that the place where the offence was committed was within the forest, and consequently the proper course to be taken was their attachment at the Swain-mote Court. The same thing happened in the case of a trespass with bow and arrows in the Derbyshire parish of Tideswell in the time of Henry VII.;

PORCH OF A HALL
From a MS. in the British Museum

the matter could not proceed in the manor court, for it was declared in defence that the particular site of the trespass was within the forest of the High Peak, though only just on the verge.

The following case from the Forest Proceedings of the Duchy of Lancaster is of interest. In 1273 Edward I. was staying at the Castle of the Peak, in Derbyshire, on a hunting expedition in the adjoining forest. Thomas FitzNicholas and Ralph FitzGodfrey, of Monyash, borrowing the royal hounds, chased the deer and carried back some of the venison to their own houses. Whereupon William le Wynn, lord of Monyash, whose tenants they were, summoned them to his own court and amerced them respectively in fines of 4*s.* and 6*s.* 8*d.* At the next forest Eyre, at Derby, William le Wynn was presented by the foresters for unlawful adjudication at a manorial court in a case of venison trespass. The justices fined him 20*s.* and he had to give pledges to abide by the assize of the forest. Broadly speaking, breaches of the lord's fishery rights seem to have been more frequently brought before the manor courts than those against his game.

Enforcement of the statutes against playing with "le cards and le tables" are frequently met with on the Court Rolls, and the game "ad pilam"[1] was also strictly forbidden to the tenantry, either on account of some element of chance entering into it which aroused the gambling instinct, or more probably because interfering with the practice of archery, which was enjoined by Edward III. on Sundays and festivals in lieu of the ordinary rural pastimes.

[1] This is generally considered to have been a game at football.

Many other days owed their observance to pagan origins, such as Mayday and Midsummer, the festivities of which had been consecrated by the Church, in accordance with the advice of St. Gregory. In the time of Henry III. the ploughmen and other officers at East Monkton, between Warminster and Shaftesbury, were allowed a ram for a feast on Midsummer Eve, when it was a practice to carry fire round the lord's corn. This form of the Beltane festival was observed in the North of England well into the eighteenth century, and a similar custom prevailed in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, fires being lighted at the ends of the fields just sown with wheat, on the eve of Twelfth Day.

We have seen that the duties of the tenant were carefully defined, and the custom of the manor would ensure that encroachments on the part of the lord could be successfully resisted. With few wants, with the solace of wife and home, rude pleasures and occasional feasts, the position of the tenant of the old English manor may well compare with that of his modern counterpart.

SWINEHERDS AND SWINE

INTERIOR OF HALL OF A SUPERIOR MANOR HOUSE

SHOWING THE DAIS, THE PLATE CUPBOARD, THE MINSTREL GALLERY, ETC.

From a MS. in the Bodleian Library

CHAPTER VII

THE TENANTS OF ROYAL AND CHURCH MANORS

CERTAIN villain tenants on ancient royal manors, or, more strictly speaking, "the tenants of ancient demesne of the Crown," form a distinct and privileged class of great historical interest. The chief characteristics of their condition were their personal freedom, and the comparative fixity of their tenure. Although holding in villainage, they could not be deprived of their lands, provided their rents and services were duly rendered; no one had a right to increase or change their services; they were protected by peculiar writs, which enforced the custom of the manor. Ancient demesne has been defined as

"composed of the manors which belonged to the Crown at the time of the Conquest. This includes manors which had been given away subsequently, and excludes such as had lapsed to the king after the Conquest by escheat or forfeiture. Possessions granted away by Saxon kings before the Conquest are equally excluded. In order to understand what these manors were the courts reverted to the *Domesday* description of Terra Regis. As a rule these lands were entered as Crown lands TRE and TRW; that is were considered to have been in the hand of King Edward in 1066,

and in the hand of King William in 1086. But strictly and legally they were Crown lands at the moment when King William's claim inured, or, to use the contemporary phrase, 'on the day when King Edward was alive and dead'."[1]

The peasants in these manors were subject to services similar to those of ordinary villains of other manors; they had to perform their quota of agricultural work on the demesne, and servile customs, such as merchet, etc., were enforced in many places. But the privileges attaching to their condition were many, and of a peculiar kind, consisting to a great extent of exemption from public fiscal burdens. The king's manor was treated as an estate independent, so to speak, of the hundred and shire, the tenants being free from suit in the Hundred and County Court.

They could not be impleaded out of their own lord's court, were not liable to serve on juries and inquests outside the manor to which they belonged, were free of toll in all markets and fairs, and, as the king's servants, could not be attached in the ordinary course by the sheriff's writ. Although they could be talliaged by the king in his capacity of lord of the manor, they were not taxed with the country. As they did not benefit by the government of the county, they were not called upon for contribution to its maintenance, as for the repair of bridges, roads, and the like, which they used in the exercise of royal privilege and for the king's benefit. When these manors passed into the hands of a subject, a somewhat anomalous state of affairs ensued. The new lord could only talliage his

[1] Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 89.

tenants by virtue of the king's writ, which served as a check to arbitrary acts of powerful magnates; yet at the same time the profits went to the lord and not to the king. The king's right in the manor was not entirely abrogated by its alienation. As an instance, Henry II. granted the ancient demesne manor of Stoneleigh to the Cistercian Abbey there, in exchange for other lands. Although the charter implies a full grant, all kinds of perquisites were drawn by the king from the same throughout his reign, and he had his own bailiffs there, to whom his writs were directed. In fact, it seems to have been considered that the Crown ought not to alienate its demesne lands, and that there was always the possibility of their resumption by the royal grantor or his successors, which was by no means unusual.

The most distinctive feature, however, of the condition of the tenants of ancient demesne was the special legal procedure which obtained in questions affecting their holdings. Resort was had to special writs, such being directed not to the ordinary officers of the law, but to the bailiffs of the manor. The writ, which is most often met with in manorial records of ancient demesne, is the "little writ of right close" (*i.e.* closed, to distinguish it from the writ of right patent or open, directed to the sheriff). By this writ a villain was enabled not only to implead his fellow in the manorial court, but to oppose himself as plaintiff against his lord, and there are instances of the latter being summoned to appear, distrained, and subjected to judgment. When a demesne manor was actually in the hands of

the Crown, although the tenants would not implead their lord, the king on occasion appeared as plaintiff against his tenant in his own court. In certain cases appeal was allowed to a higher tribunal, and revision of judgment ensued. Although there is some confusion in law-books and in the decisions of the justices, it seems clear that all the tenants of a manor in ancient demesne were not entitled to take advantage of its peculiar privileges. The freeholders who held their land by charter had their protection at common law. There were pure villains as in other manors; but the privileged class was that of villain socmen or men of free blood holding in villainage, a class represented, as we have seen, in other manors, but only enjoying these special privileges on those which had been Crown lands "on the day that King Edward was alive and dead." And this leads us to a consideration of the origin of this interesting tenure. There seems little doubt that its substance, "the legal protection of the peasantry," had its origin in Saxon times, although its peculiarities of legal procedure were developed after the Conquest. The king was considered as "the one great safeguard of Saxon tradition and the one defender against Norman encroachment"; appeals to him were constantly made that the laws and customs of St. Edward the Confessor should be observed, and these could be substantiated, as far as tenure and services were concerned, by the *Domesday* record. It is evident that there would be a larger proportion of tenants on Crown lands, who had lapsed from free owners into territorial dependence, than in other manors. The

king would personally benefit by the protection of his tenantry against the exactions of his officers. The tenure in ancient demesne

> "amounted after all only to a recognition of definite customs in general, to a special judicial organization of the manor which made it less dependent upon the steward, and to the facilities afforded for complaint and revision of judgments. As to this last, it must be noted that the king's men were naturally enough in a better position than the rest of the English peasantry; the curse of villainage was that manorial courts were independent of superior organization as far as the lower tenants were concerned. But courts in royal manors were the king's courts after all, and, as such, they could hardly be severed from the higher tribunals held in the king's name."[1]

If the student of manorial records compares any considerable number of manors that were in monastic or church hands with those that were under lay control, it will be found, broadly speaking, that the lot of the tenants generally, and more especially that of the villains, was decidedly superior when under the control of the former. True it is that tenants of ecclesiastical manors had their difficulties with the lord from time to time, and were perhaps all the more ready now and again to show dissatisfaction in a more marked way than they would have dared to do against the more severe secular lords; but the easy terms on which the assarts or clearings made by the monks and their lay brothers were conferred on their tenants, the commuting of labour customs for quite small sums of money, the

[1] Vinogradoff, *Villainage in England*, p. 125.

generally light character of the labour for the lord, the better harvest fare provided, and more particularly the far greater opportunity for manumission or freedom that pertained to ecclesiastical estates are noticeable in so many instances, that there can be no doubt it was as a rule far better for each class of tenants to be on a church rather than on a secular estate.

In the valuable chartulary of the Abbey of Burton-on-Trent, preserved at Beaudesert, there are full accounts of the tenantry on several Staffordshire and Derbyshire manors drawn up about the year 1100, as well as some like entries of the year 1114. It would be very difficult to find such easy tenures on any secular manors of approximate date. In a variety of cases, a house was held for which a single day's work per week in harvest-time for the lord was the only charge. The proportion of *ad opus* tenants on these estates was unusually small; thus, at Mickleover, out of a total of seventy-eight tenants, only twenty-two had to make any return in labour, and in each of these cases the villain held two bovates of land in return for two days' labour a week at certain periods of the year, such as the occasional carrying of a load to the lord's garden, ploughing once in the winter and twice in the spring, harvesting, etc. Their position, too, is shown by the fact that they were cow-keepers, for time was allowed them, when working for the lord, to drive home and milk their cows, and generally to attend to their stock. In two other Mickleover cases, *ad opus* tenants of two bovates of land had recently (1100) commuted with the abbot for their services, for a money rent of 2*s*. a year,

a sum which gives a good idea of the comparatively small amount of exacted labour.

In the adjoining township there were twenty-two villains, including Godric the Reeve, the majority of whom held two bovates of land; but in only four cases did they make recompense to the lord by labour. On the same manor there were, in 1114, five men in charge of the plough oxen (bovarii); each of them held one bovate of land, or two acres of marsh, in return for making or providing the irons of three ploughs; the amount of demesne land being sufficient for that number.

It was easy, on most monastic manors, for the *native* or villain to obtain leave to live elsewhere on payment of a small acknowledgment, which was a privilege more rarely granted by a secular lord. Thus on the manor of Inkpen, in Berkshire, in the time of Richard I., the Abbot of Titchfield, as lord, licensed three of his *natives* to dwell outside the manor in return for 6*d.* a year apiece at Michaelmas; in another case the annual acknowledgment for a like permission took the shape of a plough-shoe (or iron tip for a wooden share), then worth about 2*d.*, and in a third case the more costly service of a pair of cart-wheels, probably worth about 1*s.* The same abbot, according to the customary of the Hampshire manor where the abbey stood, had an extraordinary scale of dietary for those tenants who worked at the lord's harvesting. Those who worked one day a week for the whole day received at 3 o'clock a supply of food (*unum pastum*), consisting of bread with beer or cider,

broth (*potagium*), and two sorts of flesh or fish, as well as drink once after dinner. For supper the fortunate labourer also received a wheaten loaf weighing 40 oz., and two herrings or four pilchards or one mackerel. As such a meal seems to have been considered as worth 4*d.*, this food allowance was certainly remarkably liberal. If three days' labour was the service to be rendered, the last of the three was recompensed in the same lavish manner, while on the two first days the repast was a loaf of barley bread, water to drink, and two kinds of fish, while the change in the supper consisted merely of the substitution of a 40 oz. barley loaf for one of wheat. When the customary tenants had to wash sheep or do a day's work on the meadows at the lord's will, they received nothing except that they had wheat bread and beer when they had finished; but the shearers had cheese in addition to the bread and beer. Those who dressed the meadows had no food allowance; but the tenants when haymaking received bread and beer, with flesh or fish.

We have looked in vain through many customaries of secular manors to find a parallel to the above dietary. The only approach to it is in other manors in monastic hands. As a broad rule there was no food or drink given to the lord's villains for labour on the demesne save at corn harvest, and then usually on a somewhat meagre scale.

One other point of the generous treatment of the tenants on the lands of the Titchfield Abbey may here be noticed. Those who have studied the customs of riparian manors such as those bordering on the Thames,

Trent, Severn, Ouse (Yorks), and elsewhere, know that not only the free ferrying of the lord's household and his goods by the tenants was usually expected, but also the water transit of himself or his property to quays or places at a considerable distance. But the riparian tenants of Titchfield who were boat owners, although they had to take the abbot, canons, or members of the lord's household and their horses free across the estuary of the Hamble when necessary, if they had to convey them up the water to Southampton were always to be recompensed by a repast or 4*d.* in money, whichever they preferred.

Other striking examples of the liberality of monastic lords in the matter of food supplied to service tenants are to be found in the customary of Battle Abbey, as printed by the Camden Society, edited by Mr. S. R. Scargill-Bird. It is there clearly shown that the provisions supplied were worth more than the labour rendered.

A most interesting volume of extracts from the Halmote or Court Rolls of the prior and convent of Durham, printed by the Surtees Society some few years ago, supplies a vivid picture of the life of the various classes of tenants in the thirty-five vills under the control of the monastery, and supplies further illustration of the comparative independence of the villain tenants and the leniency of the rule of their conventual lord. He appears always to have dealt with his tenants, either in person or through his officers, with great consideration, and, in the imposition of fines, invariably tempered justice with mercy.

SECTIONAL MAP OF THE MANOR OF RAMSBURY, WILTS; SHEWING ALDBOURNE CHACE AND THE LYE PLAIN

CHAPTER VIII

RIGHTS OF COMMON AND ENCLOSURES

WE hear on all sides of the decay of our rural population and the congestion of that of our towns. The question therefore of waste grounds and open spaces becomes daily of more vital importance to the community, and the last few decades have witnessed many a successful struggle for the maintenance of public rights against threatened encroachments.

Rights of common have formed the subject of contention in all ages of manorial history. Their origin is involved in the same obscurity as that of the manor itself. While the strict legal theory is that the lord is absolute owner of the soil of the manor, and that therefore all the rights enjoyed by the tenants depend originally on his grant, permission, or sufferance; yet, from an historical point of view, there seems little doubt but that traces exist of customary rights of common antecedent to such grant, having their origin among members of a free community.

In using the term *common*, it must be remembered that it means not only the common pasture, heath, and moor, but also common arable land held among a

number of tenants who only had portions assigned to them for the period between seed-time and harvest, after which it was common to all.

It is difficult for us to imagine England as an open country without hedgerows, save immediately around some of the homesteads; yet this system of open-field culture was not extinct in many parishes till the middle of the last century. In 1852 there were still common fields at Ilsley, Berks, the vicar's glebe there consisting of 50 acres scattered about in the open fields of the township. Castor, Northamptonshire, was another example of late common fields.

The principal common right, and one that was, and still is, a fruitful source of litigation in manorial disputes, is that of common of pasture. This right extended over that portion of the common arable land as it lay in fallow in due rotation and the land under tillage that year after the crops had been cleared; over land enclosed that it might be kept in common for rearing stock, and over the wastes and woods of the manor; but these rights were not equally enjoyed by all the tenants. Legal writers from about the fourteenth century began to use the terms *appendant* and *appurtenant* to distinguish the two chief kinds of common right of pasture.

Common appendant is the right belonging to owners or occupiers of arable land to put commonable beasts (that is, draught cattle for the plough and such as manure the land) upon the lord's waste and upon the lands of fellow-tenants within the manor. This right appears only natural for the necessity of agriculture,

as tenants could not plough or manure the lands without beasts, and such beasts could not be sustained without pasture on the waste and on the grounds of their owners and of other tenants at certain seasons.

Common appurtenant, on the other hand, has no direct connection with tenure, but may be annexed to land in other lordships; it extends to beasts not generally commonable, as donkeys, hogs, goats, geese, and the like, and is claimed by immemorial usage or prescription, and for land not anciently arable, such as land reclaimed from the waste.

Another kind of common may be here mentioned, viz. that by reason of vicinage or neighbourhood, where two manors are contiguous, the beasts of the one may stray into the other's fields without molestation from either.

It has been conjectured that the distinction in name of the two kinds of common right arose in the following manner: Before the statute *Quia Emptores* there were freeholders who held their lands "with appurtenances," which included a right of common for the cattle engaged in husbandry, and also villains, who had customary rights dealt with in the manorial court; but after that statute, a class of freeholders arose who were, so to speak, independent of the manor, holding of a superior lord. When the former class, therefore, with their special rights became well recognized, it was necessary to define such rights by the special name "appendant," whereas all other rights were included under "common appurtenant."

But whatever may be the origin of these several rights of common, it is probable that the lord was

treated in practice as owner of the soil from very soon after the Conquest. At Eccles, in Norfolk, in 1275, we find the lord asserting his rights over common land against strangers, and claiming "resting gild" if the beasts of a stranger rested one night on the commons in "shacktime," that is, when the fields were open. "Thistle-take" was claimed by lords in Lancashire and Yorkshire, as an acknowledgment of the hasty crop taken by droves of beasts passing over a common, and similar payments, generally a halfpenny a beast, were exacted in other parts of the country.

But although the law recognizes the lord as sole owner of the soil, yet it has always regarded the interest of the lord and commoner in the common to be mutual. They may both bring actions for damage done, either against strangers or each other, "the lord for the public injury and each commoner for his private damage" (Blackstone).

The records of manorial courts teem with entries which prove the jealousy with which these rights were safeguarded, encroachments on the common being promptly presented by the homage jury, and the offender ordered by the court to lay open the enclosure under pain of amercement.

In illustration we may take the following few extracts from the Court Rolls of Wimbledon. In a court held at Putney, 1 Edward IV., William Benger and another were presented

"for obstructing the way at Newlonde called the Procession way and enclosing the common of the lord and his tenants there containing 40 acres to the great injury of the lord and his tenants." They were fined 6*s.* 8*d.* each.

And again in 10 Edward IV.—

"William Segar enclosed lands at Putney in the common field there and kept them in severalty which should be common, therefore he is amerced. John Twigge has enclosed one close called the Pightell and lands in Baston and Longcroft accustomed to be common at certain times, to the common injury, therefore he is amerced. Twigge is again presented in the following year for having stopped up the common well in Putney called St. Mary's well, and enclosing with live thorns and great ditches three acres in the Nethershot where the tenants from time immemorial had and ought to have common, and at the same court John Combe is presented for having enclosed half an acre lying in the Middleshot of Baston in Putney, and building a house there where was a common footway for all men to go from Putney to Kingston and other places."

But it was not only enclosures of the common that were closely watched and resisted; a tenant was not allowed to overburthen the common with more beasts than he could support in winter; he was strictly forbidden to allow his pigs to go unrung, debarred from overturning the pasture of the common; and he must not cut thorns or furze on the common excessively, or fell timber without the licence of the lord.

The enclosure of common and waste land by the lord began at a very early period. Whether the Statute of Merton merely affirmed or changed the common law, cannot be determined in face of the conflicting evidence. This statute enabled, or defined the right of, the lord to approve (an ancient expression for improve) his waste by enclosing it for tillage or woodground, provided he left sufficient pasture for his tenants who

were entitled thereto. From this period, however, disputes concerning enclosures and common rights became constant sources of litigation. In these cases the verdict of the jury often runs that the defendant "is the chief lord of the vill and can approve in his waste by the provision of Merton," and the plaintiff "hath sufficient pasture for his lands."

Other causes of dispute arose through difficulties incident to the common rights, such as if the tenant had put his cattle on the land before the corn had been carried; at other times the tenants claimed the right of putting their neighbours' cattle on the common for profit, because their own cattle were insufficient to manure the land.

There were other rights of common, such as common of *piscary*, or the liberty of fishing in the lord's preserved water; common of *turbary*, or of digging and taking turf on the lord's soil; and common of *estovers*, (from *estoffer*, to furnish) the liberty of taking necessary wood for repair of houses, hedges, carts, ploughs, and other implements of husbandry, these several rights being known in Saxon times and afterwards as housebote, hedgebote (or haybote), cartbote, and ploughbote, as well as firebote for fuel.

We have before alluded to the Inclosure Acts of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which changed the face of the country and the old system of agriculture. But the remoter causes which led to enclosures had their origin some centuries earlier. In the Black Death of the fourteenth century it was estimated that nearly half the population perished. From this resulted a

great scarcity of labour and consequent rise in wages. The lords, finding it increasingly difficult to carry on the agricultural work of their estates by the old methods, began to let portions at farm to small cultivators by leases for three lives, and by the middle of the fifteenth century the bulk of the demesne lands, both of lay and ecclesiastical owners, were held under this system of tenure. The Wars of the Roses which followed broke the power of the magnates, and allowed free scope to the spirit of commerce which was abroad. The merchants of the towns turned their attention to farming, and especially to the rearing of sheep for the growth and export of wool. Neither the common waste nor the small and scattered holdings were adaptable for this purpose, and as a consequence there followed a gradual consolidation of holdings, conversion of arable land to pasture, and, wherever possible, by right or might, the enclosure of commons.

The attention of Parliament began to be directed to these enclosures early in the reign of Henry VII. Bacon, writing of that period, says: "Inclosures began to be more frequent, whereby arable land which could not be manured without people and families was turned into pasture which was easily rid by a few herdsmen," or, as expressed in a contemporary petition to Parliament, "sheep and cattle drove out Christian labourers."

Several Acts were passed to check the growing evil; in their preambles reference is made to "fields that have been ditched and made pasture for cattle," the "many farms taken into one man's hand," and "the

laying to pasture, lands which customably have been used to tilth." John Fitzherbert, in 1523, writes :—

"It was of old time that all the lands, enclosures and pastures lay open and unenclosed. And then was their tenement much better chepe than they be now ; for the most part the lords have enclosed a great part of their waste ground and straitened their tenants of their common therein ; also they have enclosed their demesne lands and meadows and kept them in severalty so that the tenants have no common with them therein. They have also given license to divers of their tenants to enclose part of their arable land and to take in new intakes or closes out of the commons paying to their lords more rent therefor, so that the common pastures waxen less and the rents of the tenants waxen more."

But the statutes against Inclosures were evaded in every possible way ; a single furrow was driven across a field, to prove that it was under tillage, and cattle, owners would hold their fields in the names of their sons or servants.

The dissolution of the religious houses which followed, intensified the evils of the new system and resulted in further spoliation of the common lands ; the grantees everywhere endeavouring to disregard the customary rights enjoyed by the tenants they found on the land. In the "Supplication of the Poor Commons," 1546, they say that the new lords "make us poor commons so in doubt of their threattings that we dare do no other but bring into their courts our copies taken of the Convents of the late dissolved monasteries—they make us believe that all our former writings are void and of none effect," the grant from the king overriding all former

rights. Attention is drawn to the inflation of rents through the competition for land. "Such of us as have no possessions left us by our predecessors can get now no farme tenement or cottage at these men's hands without we pay them more than we are able to make."

There are bitter complaints of the parks enclosed for the keeping of deer by which the commoners lost their rights. At Fersfield the Duke of Norfolk[1] enclosed in his park of Kenninghall 44 acres over which the tenants claimed common rights. Not getting redress from His Grace's bailiff, they commenced a suit against the Duke, and also forcibly entered on their commons. On the attainder of the Duke, other lands were assigned to them in compensation, and later, these were confirmed to them by the Earl of Arundel.

Leland tells how "the Duke of Buckingham[2] made a fair park hard by the castle of Thornbury, Gloucestershire, and took very much fair ground in, very fruitful of corn, now fair lands for coursing. The inhabitants cursed the Duke for those lands so enclosed."

Among the many Acts which passed into law in the sixteenth century, two may be singled out for notice as seeming to anticipate the legislation of a later period. In 1545 an Act was passed for the partition of Hounslow Heath, of which the preamble sets forth that the king was seized of the waste ground called Hounslow Heath consisting of some 4,000 acres and lying in several parishes; that its barrenness was a source of dearth

[1] Thomas Howard, the fourth Duke.

[2] Edward Stafford, who had licence to impark 1,000 acres at Thornbury 2 Hen. VIII.

among the people dwelling on its confines, and although the king might approve a great part, it was thought desirable that commissioners should set out a portion to every inhabitant with liberty to each to approve his allotment without hindrance. In 1592 it was enacted that under penalties

"no person shall inclose or take in any of the waste grounds within 3 miles of the gates of the City of London, nor sever nor divide by any hedges, ditches, pales or other wise any of the said fields to the hindrance of the training or mustering of soldiers, or *of walking for recreation, comfort and health of her Majesty's people.*"

The crisis of 1549 was brought about by the action of the Lord Protector Somerset, who caused a proclamation to be issued for the redress of enclosures, and a commission was appointed to carry out its recommendations: one of the commissioners defines the enclosures he was to remedy:—

"When any man hath taken away any other men's commons or if any commons of highways have been enclosed or imparked contrary to right and without due recompense, or if any one hath pulled down houses of husbandry and converted the lands from tillage to pasture."

But enclosures continued in spite of the laws against illegal appropriations. A writer in 1550 thus inveighs against the greed of the great farmers:—

"You enclosed from the poor their due commons, yea, when there was a law ratified to the contrary, your desire ceased not to find means either to compel your tenants to consent to your desire in enclosings, or else you made them afraid. And what obedience showed you to the King's

proclamation and commission directed for the laying open of your enclosures, you left not off to enclose still. If the sturdy fall to stealing you are the cause thereof."

Aubrey, in his notes on Wiltshire, writing about a century later, draws a vivid picture of the change in the appearance of the county.

"The country was then (1550) a lovely campania as that about Sherston and Cotswold. Very few enclosures unless near houses. My grandfather Lyte did remember when all between Cromhalls and Castle Combe was so, when Eston Yatton and Combe did intercommon together. In my remembrance much hath been enclosed and every year more and more is taken in. Anciently the leghs (now corruptly called sleights, *i.e.* pastures) were noble large grounds, as yet the demesne lands of Castle Combe are. . . . There were no rates for the poor even in my grandfathers days: but for Kingston St. Michael (no small parish) the Church Ale at Whitsuntide did their business. Since the Reformation and Inclosures aforesaid these parts have swarmed with poor people."

It is needless to pursue the history of enclosures to modern times: many instances are fresh in the memory of the present generation of successful resistance to encroachments which, if carried out, would have had a disastrous effect on the well-being of the people, especially in the neighbourhood of our overcrowded centres of population. We may congratulate ourselves on having among us many owners of the soil who, waiving their legal rights, have subordinated their own personal aggrandizement to the common good.

CHAPTER IX

FAIRS AND MARKETS

THE grant of a market and fair appears from very early times to have accompanied or followed that of a manor, and was a privilege which the lords eagerly sought for at the hands of the Crown. The word "fair" derives its name from *feria*, a festival or saint's day, and we find, as a fact, that some of the fairs were held on or about the day of the patron saint of the church of the respective manors or townships, and that, in the remaining cases, the fairs were invariably associated with some other special saint's day. The well-known letter of St. Gregory to Melitus, A.D. 601, counsels "some solemnity to be kept by the English in place of the pagan festivals observed by their ancestors, and that they should be encouraged to build themselves booths from the boughs of trees about those churches which have been turned to that use from temples." We have ample evidence from manorial records that these solemnities were utilized for purposes of commerce. In the *Boldon Book*, 1183, the tenants making booths at the fairs of St. Cuthbert were excused other works.

In connection with the above instructions, it is curious

to note that these gatherings, in most places by ancient custom, were not only held on the vigil or wake, the day and morrow of the patron saint, but that, till the time of Edward I., they were frequently held in the churchyard. Some confusion existed as to the legality of these gatherings, if not of royal grant. In the reign of King John, the Abbot of Abingdon was summoned to show by what right he held a fair at Wallingford. The abbot pleads that it is no fair, but a certain gathering called a wake which had been held from the time of the Conquest, and whereof the abbot was seized from time immemorial, without claim of toll or any other custom, yet, nevertheless, there was always buying and selling there, the absence of toll being relied on as proving that the assembly was not a fair.

There are few references to fairs either in collections of laws or other authorities in the period preceding the Conquest. No doubt such gatherings took place, as they are mentioned in *Domesday;* but probably they were of little monetary value, although exercising an influence on the course and development of trade. After this period the fair came to be considered as a valuable franchise, yielding a revenue to the grantee in tolls of *piccage* (breaking the pavement), *stallage*, and the like.

The importance of fairs must have been increased by the protection afforded to those attending them, and it is probable that the law of "market overt" grew out of the practices of merchants at these larger gatherings, which laid the foundation of the market system. Andrew Horne, in the *Mirror of Justice* (1328), states

that "tolls were established in markets in order to testify the making of contracts," and there is no doubt that in old times all market bargains were made before an official, either the reeve or some person appointed by him, in many cases, before two or three witnesses.

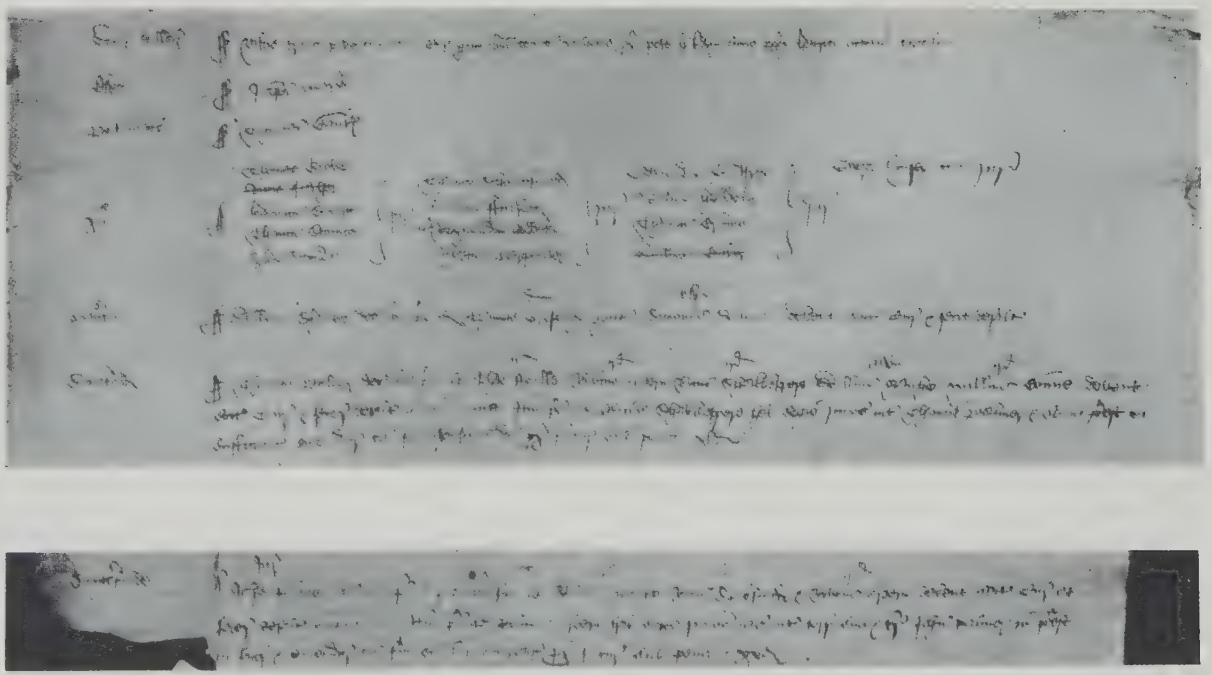
An incident of every considerable fair was the Court of Pie-powder, "a court of summary jurisdiction as to contracts for goods bought or sold, for battery or disturbance, or for words to the slander of wares in the market there." It is said to derive its name from the dusty shoes (*pieds poudres*) of the litigants.

As the fair or market was an important monopoly, when any new grant was solicited it was necessary to inquire by a jury whether it would be to the damage or prejudice of the king or the lords of manors owning existing fairs or markets in the neighbourhood. Bracton states that a market would be a nuisance if set up within six miles and two-thirds of a mile from the site of an existing market, giving as a reason for this limit that an ordinary day's walk may be taken as twenty miles, and dividing the distance into three portions, the morning will be used for going to market, the middle of the day for business, and the third part for the return journey.

Most fairs and markets are still held on the same days as appointed in the original grants, which are found enrolled on the Patent Rolls from the reign of King John to modern times.

It would be an easy matter to write at considerable length on the general subject of old fairs and markets,

and to adduce a good deal of unprinted pertinent matter from original records; but such a course would involve a long economic digression, foreign in most respects to manorial affairs. The intention of this brief section is merely to point out the general connection of fairs and markets with manorial rights.



EXTRACTS FROM COURT ROLLS OF WARWICK COLLEGE, TEMP. HENRY VIII

THE NAME OF RICHARD SHAKKESPERE (GRANDFATHER OF WILLIAM) APPEARS, WITH THE VARIANT OF SHAKSTAFF

V APP. II

Part II

MANORIAL RECORDS

CHAPTER I

MANORIAL ROLLS

THE great wealth of material available for the illustration of English manorial history is only to be equalled by the neglect with which these valuable records have been treated by their lawful custodians until within comparatively recent years. From about the thirteenth century manorial documents naturally fall into three groups. Account Rolls or, as they are called, *Compoti* of the bailiff, reeve, or other officers of the manor made up from year to year, and containing minute details of the income accruing to the lord from rents and farms, sales of works and services, of hay and grain, with perquisites of courts; and also the outgoing expenses, such as those of ploughing, reaping, and sowing, with repairs of buildings and implements of husbandry. They moreover often contain inventories of farm stock and other miscellaneous memoranda. Extents or surveys of the manorial estates at different periods, giving boundaries, field names and those of tenants, with their rents, services, and holdings, invaluable to the local topographer; akin to which were the Custumals, where the customs prevailing in the manor are from time to time definitely

prescribed, and which treat in general terms of the rights and duties of classes of tenants rather than individuals. The third and most important class were the Rolls of the manorial court, which often exist in an almost complete series from the end of the thirteenth century until comparatively modern times. To these latter attaches the greatest interest, as presenting us with the most vivid pictures of the daily lives of our forefathers, and, it may almost be said, revealing in some cases their very thoughts and feelings.

The lords of manors, from an early period,[1] following the example of the King's Courts, were wont to keep a record of the proceedings in their domestic court, being duly enrolled by the steward on the Manor Rolls. On these were recorded the alienations of land, surrenders, and admittances; copies of which were handed to the tenant and became his title deeds—he was said to hold "by copy of Court Roll," and eventually was denominated a copyholder; but by far the greater portion of the earlier Court Rolls is taken up by matters of a contentious character.

Here actions for recovery of land by tenants unjustly dispossessed were commenced; disputes as to services and rights of common were settled; debts could be recovered, and trespasses punished; the scold was presented for annoying her neighbours; the miller for taking excessive toll of the tenants when they came to grind their corn at the lord's mill; the brewer or baker for selling an inferior article, or by false measure

[1] The earliest Court Roll which Professor Maitland has found is of the year 1246, now in possession of King's College, Cambridge.

or weight; here a tenant would apply for the lord's licence to allow his son to become a clerk in Holy Orders, or for leave to give his daughter in marriage; a labourer for permission to distrain on his employer's goods and chattels for wages unjustly withheld; here poachers were fined, disorderly houses duly reported, and orders made for the expulsion from the manor of undesirable characters; in short, these local tribunals were the police courts of the neighbourhood; in their rolls will be found the mediæval law as to offences answering to our modern misdemeanours, and such as are punishable upon summary conviction; in them is displayed the whole system of local constabulary, of frankpledge, and the duties of the headborough, in fact the legal and social life of the village community are graphically mirrored on these ancient documents.

One of the objects of these pages is to awaken a more general interest in the contents of these records among both their owners and custodians, and also among local antiquaries who are able to obtain access to such documents. Being of a semi-private nature, they have not, to any extent, found their way into our great national depositories, except in the case of the Public Record Office, as noted later on;[1] and many, no doubt, are the instances where complete series of rolls lie hidden away in the muniment chambers and even lumber rooms of old mansions, or have strayed into the offices of solicitors far from their original place of deposit.

The value of these documents to the workers in middle-class genealogy is very great. Beginning long

[1] See Appendix I.

before the establishment of parish registers, they form a mine of information concerning the descent of the yeoman class which has been well called the backbone of the country; the surrenders and admittances to the yard-lands of the manor often show descent from father to son for several generations. The late Bishop Stubbs has well remarked:—

"A middle-class man, or even agricultural labourer, has as much right to pride in an unstained hereditary good name as a peer of the realm; as much interest in learning the discipline by which as men-at-arms, archers in the musters, churchwardens and waywardens, graves and bedells of the manor, his fathers were kept in useful and indispensable employment, and maintained an honourable position and a good name in the class to which they belonged. It is really a curious thing that in days when the doctrine of heredity is taking its place as a scientific axiom, men should flatter themselves that they are self-made, and not care to explore what their ancestors did for them. Mere antiquity of descent is of course less significant than antiquity of famous descent; but there is, as a matter of fact, very little real antiquity of famous descent in this or any other European country. And the mere antiquity of descent in the male line means the continuity of dwelling and working, hereditary occupation and local connections which, to those who possess it, ought never to be a matter of indifference."

INTERIOR OF COURT ROOM, KNARESBOROUGH, YORKS

CHAPTER II

THE PROCEDURE OF MANORIAL COURTS

FOR illustration of the procedure in Courts Seignorial, we are not entirely dependent on the rolls themselves, but have another source of information in the MS. treatises which began to be written as early as the thirteenth century, in which precedents are given for the conduct of business in the local courts. From such sources we are able to gather many details of the procedure which we should scarcely learn from a perusal of the actual rolls.

By way of introduction to the extracts from original Court Rolls which follow, a selection from these precedents is here given (somewhat epitomized, avoiding repetition and legal verbiage) as printed by the Selden Society (*The Court Baron*), by kind permission of the editors.

On the appointed day, we may picture to ourselves the tithing men, each accompanied by his tithing, repairing to the lord's hall, or perhaps, as weather permitted, to some convenient place of assembly in the open air, such as the manor oak;[1] the steward taking

[1] In the Almoner's Accounts of Norwich Cathedral, 1530–1, is an entry under the manor of Newton: "In expenses about our tenants on the Court-day *under the oak* with fee of the steward 3*s.* 4*d.*"

his place as president, accompanied by his clerk to make the enrolments, which, from the elliptical style of the entries, we may almost conclude were the actual notes of the proceedings, rapidly turned into Latin as the presentments were made. There, too, would be the jury composed of freemen and the better class of customary tenants, to whom the steward delivers his charge. The deaths of tenants are presented, estates surrendered and regranted by copy of roll. If the View of Frankpledge followed, offenders are brought in by the bailiff or bedell, and, on being adjudged guilty, are declared in the mercy of the lord, and the fines are assessed, not by the lord's representative, but by the *afferers*, the elected officers of the court.

The MS. from which these precedents are taken is apparently of thirteenth-century date; it is written in old French, and is entitled *Le Court de Baron*. A short preface explains the object of the treatise:—

"Here may one find all sufficiently and all fully the whole course of a Court Baron, and the attachments, and the distresses, and the plaints, and the proceedings, and the essoins, and the proffers, and the accusations and defences, and the delays and days of love,[1] and the office of the steward how he shall speak when he holdeth the Courts."

Of taking fish in the Lord's Pond.

Walter of the Moor, thou art attached to answer in this court wherefore by night, and against the lord's peace, thou didst enter the Lord's preserve and carried away all manner of fish at thy will, how wilt thou acquit thyself or make

[1] A love day is a day given to the parties that they may come to terms in the interval.

amends? for know that were anyone to prosecute you, you stand in peril of life and limb; therefore be advised.

Sir, my wife had lain abed a whole month and never eaten or drank anything she could relish, and for the craving to taste a perch she sent me to the bank of the pond to take one perch only, and that no other fish was taken or carried away, I am ready to do whatever thou dost award.

The Steward: Since thou gavest the other day half a mark to have an inquest, dost thou think that we have forgotten this and wouldst thou now have other law? Therefore this court awards that thou be in the Lord's mercy with pledges &c. And again thou art confessing in this court to having taken and carried away a perch in other manner than thou shouldst have done, for thou couldst have come by it in more honest manner. Therefore for this also thou art in mercy.

The defendant then craves leave to imparl and speaks thus: Sir for God's sake do not take it ill of me if I tell the truth, how the other evening I went along the bank of the pond, and saw the fish playing in the water so lovely and bright, and for the great craving I had for a perch I laid down on the bank of the pond and with my hands only and quite simply took and carried away this perch, and I will tell thee the cause of my covetous desire, my companion, that is my wife, had lain in bed a whole month, as my neighbours who are here well know [he here repeats as above, and is adjudged by the steward in the lord's mercy].

Of breaking the Assize of Beer.

Sir Steward, the bailiff Robert complaineth of William Tailor that, against the ordinance of the lord and his free assize, he hath broken the assize of beer in every brewing since Michaelmas till now, for the ordinance is that no brewer or breweress upon pain of forfeiture of half a mark shall brew beer whereof the gallon shall be sold at more

than a ½*d.* between Michaelmas and All Saints, unless it be so good and approved, according to the discretion of the ale-tasters, that it may be conveniently sold at ¾*d.* without complaint, and the said William wrongfully, and in despite of the lord, and without the assay of the ale-taster hath sold beer that was flat ever since Michaelmas at ¾*d.* a gallon, to the great prejudice of the lord so that he hath incurred the forfeiture of ½ mark and damage to the amount of 6*s.* &c. And William, defendeth the suit and avers that he has not broken the assize as the bailiff saith.

Fair friend William, the court awardeth that thou be at law six-handed[1] to acquit thyself of the charge.

Of selling fish against the franchise of the Vill.

Sir Steward, the bailiff Robert complaineth of Thomas Fisher that, against the franchise of the lord and the ordinances of the vill, all this year, every day, hath sold fish in full market to his neighbours and to strangers and to all alike fish and herring stinking, rotten and corrupt whereby many a man and woman hath received ill damage and great sickness of body, for that he held the fish a long time in order to get a higher price, whereby the lord and his honest folk have damage 40*s.*

Thomas defendeth the suit, and is adjudged to be at law six-handed.

Of battery and assault.

Sir Steward, Henry of Combe complaineth of Stephen Carpenter that, as he was going his way at such an hour on such a day in last year, there came this Stephen and encountered him in such a place and assailed him with villain words which were undeserved, in that he called him thief and lawless man, and whatever other names seemed good to him except his right name, and said that he was

[1] *i.e.* with five compurgators (himself making the sixth), who should testify on oath as to his innocence.

spying from house to house the secrets of the honest folk of the vill in order that he might come another night with his fellows to break into their houses and carry off their goods. Whereupon Henry answered him civilly and said that he was talking at random, which so enraged the said Stephen that he snatched his staff of holly out of his hand, and gave it him about his head and shoulders and loins and elsewhere all over his body and then went off.

Stephen is awarded to acquit himself at the next Court.

Of trespass against the bailiff.

Sir Steward, the bailiff Robert complaineth of John Tailor that he came on such a day to the house of said John by thy commandment to make a distress, for that he John had neglected two general summonses to come to the lord's court; then came this John who assailed him with villain words. "Thou of thine own will concealest and murderest the attachments whence gain and profit might accrue to the lord, and thou dost prosecute us as thou canst," and he entered his chamber and took a bow of yew in his hands that was unstrung, and pursued the bailiff to beat him, and the bailiff seeing his rage escaped and fled into the Court and kept himself close. And said John defendeth the suit, and denieth that he said villainous words or pursued the bailiff. The Court awards that he do wage his law.

Of toll subtracted from the lord's mill.

Sir Steward, the bailiff Robert complaineth of William Long that he came on such a day to the lord's mill in W. to grind his corn, to wit, a quarter of wheat and a quarter of rye. The miller came and debonairly received his corn, and well and skilfully ground the same and put the corn in sacks, when this William bethought himself of an evil trick and felonious device, for he privily collected the sacks and put them on horses' backs and made off without giving multure

and toll as he ought to have done according to the custom, to the great prejudice of the lord and damage of half a mark. He is adjudged to be at law six-handed at the next Court.

Of chasing or taking beasts in the lord's park.

Sir Steward, The parker, John by name, complaineth of Geoffrey of the Moor That, whereas he went on such a day in the lord's park at E. to seek a foal which the lord had asked for by letter, came this Geoffrey and John his huntsman who led in his hand two greyhounds, with bows and arrows, and they went up hill and down dale, spying what they would have: and the parker John who is here, perceived that they made ready their bows and arrows, and held their hounds in readiness for a run, and he returned to the vill of E. and met two men of the vill A & B and took them with him back to the park to testify what they should see and hear; and as soon as they entered the park they saw the said Geoffrey and John chasing and pursuing with their hounds a buck which the said Geoffrey with an arrow barbed long and broad shot right through the flanks, so that the wound might be seen on one side and the other, and they pursued the buck with their hounds and took and skinned it, and covered it with branches of underwood, and thence they went away privily out of the park, and, when they were outside, the parker began to reason with them, and said, Fair friend Geoffrey, seemingly thou hast committed a right great folly in this, and peradventure thou hast done it more than once, and he answered neither this nor that; and the parker returned and took the buck and looked for the arrow and found it, and he presented the buck to his lord, and told him of all that had been done to his prejudice, in that he (Geoffrey) had entered the franchise of the lord which he had from the King by charter, whereby it is forbidden, on pain of the forfeiture to the King of £10, that any do enter and chase beasts in the warren unless by leave of the lord.

Of breaking the Assize of Bread.

Sir Steward, the bailiff, Robert by name, who is here, complaineth of William Mercer that, wrongfully and against the ordinance and the general constitution of the realm, and against the statutes of the lord and his franchise, he hath broken the assize of bread in all manner of grain since the feast of St. Michael, to wit, for that whereas, the quarter of good wheat sold for 3*s.* 6*d.* at the utmost in all markets in this country, so that the farthing loaf of wastel[1] bread should weigh 42*s.*[2] and the loaf of coket[3] bread of the same grain and the same bolting should weigh 5*s.* more than the wastel and the loaf of simnel[4] bread 2*s.* less than the wastel and the loaf of whole wheat should weigh one cocket and a half, and still there would arise for the seller on every quarter of wheat, as is proved by the bakers of our lord the King, 3*d.* pure gain, besides the bran and two loaves for the baking and three halfpence for three lads and a farthing for another lad and ½*d.* for salt and ½*d.* for yeast and ¼*d.* for candle and 3*d.* for wood and ½*d.* for wages of the bolters. [See Assize of Bread, Statutes of the Realm, 1199.] Nevertheless he hath broken the assize whereby the lord and his good folk have damage to the amount of 100*s.* and shame to the amount of 40*s.* If confess he will, well and good; if he denieth, wrongfully he denieth, for we have suit good and sufficient.

And William Mercer, who is here, defendeth against the said bailiff and all that he surmiseth against him, and answers that no quarter of good wheat ever sold for less than 4*s.* 6*d.* —and that he hath loyally and rightfully performed the assize of bread, according to the established rate, he putteth himself on the jury of the vill; and yet that for all this he could get by way of pure gain but 1½*d.* on each quarter beside the bran and one loaf for the baking and 1*d.* for two lads.

[1] Fine white bread.

[2] According to the commonest version of the Assize the weight should be 42*s.* N.B.—Shillings and pence weights as well as sums of money, *e.g.* the pennyweight—still known. [3] Of second quality. [4] An inferior sort.

Of fruit carried off from the garden of the lord.

Sir Steward, the bailiff, Robert by name, who is here, complaineth of William of the Street that, against the peace of the lord, he sent Thomas his son on such a day at such an hour over the walls newly built, and commanded him to carry off every manner of fruit at his will; and when the bailiff heard the fruit being knocked down, he marvelled who this could be, and at once entered the lord's garden and found the boy right high on a costard tree[1] which he had cultivated for the lord's use, because of its goodness; he made him come down and attached him without doing him any villainy, and debonairly asked him by whose commandment and whose sending he entered the lord's garden over walls &c. and the boy answered that William his father bade him enter the garden and urged him on to the trees with the best fruit; so the bailiff suffered the boy to carry off all that he had taken and the lord has damage to the amount of 6*s.* and shame of half a mark.

And William defends and denies that his son entered the garden or carried off fruit at his bidding. William, saith the steward, at least thou canst not deny that he is thy mainpast[2] nor that he was attached in the lord's garden; how wilt thou acquit thyself that thou didst not make or bid him do this? Sir, for the deed of my son and the trespass I am ready to do thy will, and I ask thy favour. My pledges are &c. The Court awards that he be at his law six-handed at the next Court. That will I Sir.

Of horse stealing.

Bailiff. Sir. Let the prisoners come before us. That will I Sir. Lo they are here.

For what cause was this man taken? Sir for a mare which he took in the field of C in other manner than he ought. What is thy name? Sir my name is William.

[1] An apple tree. [2] A member of thy household.

William, now answer me by what device thou camest by this mare: for at least thou canst not deny that she was found with thee and that thou didst avow her for thine own. Sir, I disavow this mare and never saw her until now. Then thou canst right boldly put thyself upon the good folk of this vill that thou didst not steal her. Nay Sir, for these men have their hearts big against me and hate me much because of this ill report which is surmised against me. Thinkest thou William that there would be any who would commend his body and soul to the devils for thee or for love or hatred of thee? Nay verily they are good folk and lawful and thou canst oust from among them all those thou suspectest of desiring thy condemnation, but do thou what is right and have God before thine eyes and give not thyself wholly to the enticement of devils, but confess the truth and thou shalt find us the more merciful.

Sir in God's name have pity on me and I will confess the truth, my great poverty and neediness and the enticement of the devil made me take this mare larcenously, and often have they made me do other things that I ought not to have done. God pardon thee saith the Steward at least thou hast confessed in this Court that larcenously thou tookest this mare, now name some of thy fellows for it cannot be but that thou hadst fellowship in thy evil deeds.

Of a truth Sir never had I a companion in my evil deeds save only the fiend. Take him away and let him have a priest.

Of a burglary.

H of C pursueth Adam and complains that, against the peace of God and the lord, on such a day he came by night just at the time of first sleep, and fraudulently opened the doors of my house, and feloniously and larcenously took and carried away the things which he hath here, and he tightly bound me and my wife with cords, to wit, by our hands and feet that we had no power to cry or help ourselves, and when

he had done this robbery, he straightway fled to a fellowship which he had near at hand in the house of John of C, where he was right gladly received and harboured on account of my goods which he carried off. I and my wife lay there bound till daybreak, when my neighbours called me to the plough and they saw us through the broken door, and they entered and unbound us and we straightway raised hue and cry and pursued him to the house of John of C where we found him hidden with the pelf that is here before thee. And Adam answers, Sir I tell thee rightfully that this drapery was put on my back by fraud and by evil greed against me, to put me to an evil death, and I never entered his house by night nor carried off these clothes. And I put myself on the jury of the vill for good and for ill.

Therefore let an inquest be made.

The fore-going examples fairly illustrate the procedure in the criminal or leet jurisdiction of the manorial Court, but it must not be forgotten that much of the business transacted there was of a purely civil nature, consisting, for the most part, of surrenders and admittances; and in this connection the symbolical ceremony of the delivery of a rod by the steward to the new holder, frequently called a tenant *par la verge*, should here be noticed—a ceremony still observed in the transfer of copyholds. This act has been taken to signify and emphasize the ownership of the lord, but it may have had its origin in a far older practice; in Frankish law the transmission of property was effected by a similar act performed by the *salman* or middleman prescribed by custom in order to give the transaction its solemn and binding character.

CHAPTER III

EARLY COURT ROLLS—HENRY III.-EDWARD II.

THERE is little doubt but that the lords of manors, especially of those in monastic hands, began at an early period to keep a record of the proceedings in their courts. Although no rolls have as yet come to light earlier than the reign of Henry III., it is possible that such exist.

The following extracts are chosen from among the earliest series to be found at the Public Record Office and British Museum.

LETCOMBE REGIS, BERKS

The manor of Letcombe Regis (anciently called, as in the following rolls, Dunledecumbe) was in the hands of the Crown from before the Conquest, and remained so till after the death of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, brother of Henry III.

Court held on St Clement's day the 52nd year of King Henry [III.].[1]

Richard in Bathe essoined by Robert his son of common essoin.[2]

[1] Court Roll, 154, 35.

[2] Sometimes called *de malo veniendi*, the excuse allowed for sickness or infirmity.

J. de Frense essoined by Ralph le Wind against the bailiffs.[1]

Elias King complains that Edmund son of Cecily deforces[2] him of a messuage with 5 acres of land and appurtenances in Dunledecumbe, and this unjustly because William King was possessed and seized of the aforesaid messuage and 5 acres of land with appurtenances, and took the fruits thereof to the value of half a mark in the time of King Henry that now is, son of King John, and from the aforesaid W. King the aforesaid messuage with aforesaid 5 acres came to Reginald King his brother, and from aforesaid Reginald to Elias King, and said Elias made no mention of the wife of Reginald King whom he had, nor of the children whom he had.

And Edmund son of Cecily defends the force and injury against Elias King and his suit, and says that he is not bound to answer the writ of said Elias, nor his accusation, because he has made no mention of the wife or children of Reginald King,[3] and he puts himself upon the judgment of the court and the court puts the matter in respite till the next court to deliver judgment.

Robert Upher in mercy because he has received[4] J. de Lifford contrary to the assize, pledge Richard Heyward [fine] 6^{d}.

William of the Water because he has received William de Winterburne contrary to the assize, [fine] 2 hens.

The bailiff has accused Adam the miller that he has dug white earth [chalk] in the way between Ledecumbe and Chelrey to the hurt of his neighbours of Ledecumbe, and he says that he has not, and puts himself upon inquisition and let an inquisition be taken; in respite till next court.

[1] *i.e.* in a suit against the bailiffs.

[2] Keeps him out of possession.

[3] Elias King had not mentioned in his plea of claim that he was the son of Reginald.

[4] Sheltered him against justice.

Cur' com' de Sti Clemenc' anno R. R. H. L°

Ricard in Barbe attach' p Rob' fit Hug' de gd'.
R. le Frensse attach' p Radulfu' le Yong de gd' Balloy

Thomas Hung' comp' q Edmund fit Cecil' deforciat ei vnu' mesuagiu' cu' v. acr' ter'
cu' pt' in Dunlesbech' et hoc unde q'r' Hug' Hung' vend' et Rad' de Pedes fit mesuag'
et v. acr' cu' pt' Hug' et Hug' in decpo ad valenc' de marc' in comp' H. R. fit reg' Lab' q' nec ei.
et de pdco R. Hung' cecidit plen' mesuagiu' cu' pdcis v. acr' ad dam' Hung' Hug' fili' et de pdco
Radulfo usq' ad ctia Hung' et de quar' nulla fecer' monstr' de voc' Regis Hung' q' Hug'
si de pdco fuis q' Hug'

Wim' et Hug' Bellarde Edmund' fit Cecil' com' Quam Hung' et Petra fili' et dic' q' ii' com'
respondere debu' de Cte q' ea' pcm' fuo q' nulla fear' mondm' de vetere' de fit da' Reg' Hug'
potuer' de hoc videre Curt' et Curt' pdcm' in respcu' usq' ad gm' curt' ad videnc' Sanct'

— Rob' Wharin' mia q' vetet' anno R. de Hilfod' qd' assisa pleggt' Ricard' le Cyrbard.
ne Will' de Cay' in mia q' vetet' anno Will' de Wicchebur' in qd' assisa

Peter of the Water is summoned at the next court because he has placed a certain [boundary] stone.[1] J. le Frenshe is summoned at the next court because he has beaten a woman in his fold.

Be it remembered that Geoffrey de Cherletun and Ralph le Wind are put in respite till next court.

Lucy Fot is summoned for that she has brewed and broken the assize.

Matilda le Riede for that she has brewed and broken the assize. They have satisfied.[2]

Court of Ledecumbe on the morrow of St Lucy Virgin the 52nd year of the reign of King Henry [III.].

Edmund of the Hall essoins against Elias le Kyng of a plea of land by Richard le Auward.

Richard de Bolte of common essoin by William Bacun.

Nicholas Gubbe of common essoin by William de Middetun.

Reginald de Bathe against the bailiffs by Richard de Bathe.

Ralph Spropt of common essoin by Walter le Newe.

Thomas the clerk against David and others by Henry son of Ralph.

John le Penge of common essoin by Richard the merchant.

John the miller of common essoin by Robert de Worthe.

Geoffrey de Cherltone [owes] two capons yearly at Hockday, pledges Ralph de Wind and John le France.

David the miller in mercy for earth [chalk] dug, pledges Laurence de Spersholt, William Bance.

And let it be inquired by Thomas the clerk whether the bridge be such as it ought to be, as it was presented by David that it was not, and the said Thomas because he was not present by his tithing, except by himself only—in respite till next court.

[1] *i.e.* in a wrong place. [2] Paid the fine.

It is put in respite concerning a chest found, maliciously carried away from the house of T. Hereward.

John de Abbendone in mercy for assize broken, pledge William Huce. Henry Cheper was elected for keeping the wood and pasture.

Walter le Newe was elected headborough. . . .

Defaults.

[John de Gopeshalle.]
William de Lagarstone.
John le Byng.

Court of Denledecumbe in the vigil of the Epiphany the 52nd year of King Henry [III.].

[Essoins Richard le Erl and others.] David of the Mill for concealment [of a chest], in mercy 12d; pledges Thomas Hereward, Henry Meremulle.

Reginald de Bathe in mercy 12d because he has beaten a woman in his fold, pledge his father.

The Jurors say upon their oath that the chest was carried to the house of Henry de la Fora and was kept there for fifteen days, and the name of the carrier Andrew Lefey who is summoned at the next court.

Peter of the water for a boundary stone maliciously placed; pledge William of the Water; excused by William Asselun.

Henry a fforde [of the water] for concealment of a certain chest; pledges Henry de Mermulle, David the miller, 1 mark, he is quit. And Reginald de Chaulawe, Laurence . . . John Kyng in mercy for retaining the jewels of the lord's esquire when he married his wife.

Court held Thursday after the feast of St Botolph 55 Hen. 3.

Nicholas[1] Kyng complains of Edmund son of Cecily that he unjustly deforces him of a messuage and five acres of

[1] Nicholas becomes the plaintiff in place of his brother Elias, the latter having probably died since the commencement of the suit.

land with appurtenances in the township of Dunledecumbe and that unjustly, because William Kyng by name was thereof possessed and seized in his demesne as of fee and by right, according to the use and custom of the manor of Dunledecumbe.

And Edmund son of Cecily defends the force and injury and the right of him Nicholas, and for this reason, that Reginald father of him Nicholas brought a writ of the lord King against the said Edmund of the same tenement, according to the use and custom of the manor; and afterwards he surrendered to the lord of the aforesaid manor his whole right which he had or might have in the aforesaid tenement in full court; and afterwards the lord sold the said land to the said Edmund as his, and this he is prepared to prove and they are put on an inquisition Nicholas and Edmund.

Twelve trusty men are sworn to wit Thomas the clerk, Laurence de Spersholt, Ralph Westebroc, Henry Stuel, John the clerk, Thomas Heward, Reginald Folqum, William Bans, Richard the Reaper, Reginald Attesyerd, Ralph Wind and Adam Attesyerd. They say by their oath that Reginald father of aforesaid Nicholas surrendered all his right which he had or might have in the said land to the said lord of the aforesaid manor in full court, and this he could well do according to the use and custom of the manor.

BRIGHTWALTHAM, BERKS

The manor of Brightwaltham, or, as it was anciently called, Brightwalton, was a manor belonging to Battle Abbey. The following extracts are from a fine series of Rolls in the Public Record Office.

Court and Laghday at Brightwaltham on S[t] Dunstan's day 8 Edw. I.[1]

[1] Court Rolls, 153, 67.

The headborough of Hertle gives 6^{d} [1] of his own accord and presents that Roger Cook and Osbern Skarne do not come, whom the maincaptors[2] to have at the next law day and all else is well. The headborough of Covenholt gives 12^{d} of his own accord, and presents that Grey of Hesseburn William de Messecumbe Henry Gocelin do not come, the mainprisers to have them at next court and all else is well; and he presents that John le Woghelworte has brewed and sold contrary to the assize, in the same way he presents concerning Philip Chaufin and Hugh de Woghelwert, in mercy. And John le Woghelswerghte has paid 3^{d} to have warrant to be in the liberty of the lord[3] and William Godhine has paid 3^{d} for the same.

The tithing of Hernett. William le Hoil of Couenholt 2^{s} 6^{d} [4] for a mare which was the aforesaid William's and which was sold to Edith his widow.

The headborough of Brightwaltham gives 2^{s} of his own accord and presents that William the Swineherd does not come, whom Roger Wiseywude mainprised and he hath him not, therefore in mercy, fine 6^{d}, and he presents that Stephen le Parmenter of Eldesle does not come, and therefore he shall give one capon for pledge of warrant to take same; in the same way of Stephen le Tailur, and they present that Ralph Fad has removed a certain boundary between the land which is called Howeregge and Witecroft. And upon this he is quit. . . . And they present that Thomas Ranger complains against Richard Younge because he has encroached on a certain moor between them, and it is commanded that inquisition be made by neighbours. And they present that Thos. Ranger complains of Richard Young that he has threatened him. And they present that a certain moor which is between William Burgeis and Thomas Ranger is encroached upon and

[1] Called cert money, given for the expenses of keeping the law day.
[2] His sureties. [3] To live within the manor.
[4] Commutation for a heriot due.

let this be inquired into, and said Thomas is quit upon this. And they have received Robert Corttais into the tithing and he has done fealty to the lord, in the same way [they present] concerning John Partemois, in the same way concerning Roger son of Henry de Borton; and he shall give to the lord silver every year at Hockeday, and that he may be in the liberty of the lord abbot he shall give one capon, also they have received Richard Jordan and John Edward into the tithing. And it is presented that Ralph the smith has made a destruction in the hedges between the lord abbot and the lord R. son of Peter in Akdon; therefore in mercy.

Brewers.

Ralph the Tailor 6^{d}	Ralph the Smith 6^{d}
Agnes Boltere 6^{d}	Walter agodeshelf 6^{d}
John attestreteboner 6^{d}	Adam Burgois 6^{d}
John the Shepherd 6^{d}	

All these are cancelled because the offences were before the feast of St Michael Ed. I.

Court of Brightwaltham held on the day of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the first year of Edward II.[1]

Adam son of Ralph Felix for default at the Lawday; in mercy by pledge of Ralph Felix.

John Messager for the same; in mercy by pledge of Ralph Teylour.

Avyce le Wynd because she does not prosecute against John le Nywe, in mercy by pledge of William Fulke, John atte Cruche[2] in mercy for a trespass made on William Fulkes by taking and carrying away a harrow of said William and detaining it for 3 days whereby the land of the said William lies unharrowed to his damage &c. which said trespass he could not deny but acknowledged same, by pledge of John Newe.

[1] Court Roll, 153, 68. [2] At the Cross.

William Fulkes complains of John atte Cross of this, that whereas the said John had sometime granted to aforesaid William 1 acr. of land for term of 10 years, of which term 8 years had gone and 2 years are to come, the said William had driven his plough to the said land to till it and to make his hay. The said John comes with force and arms and drives away the plough of aforesaid William from the said land, and impeaches him against the covenant between them made, and ejects him from his farm to his damage &c. And aforesaid John comes and says that he did not deliver or grant the said acre to the said William of his freewill, but because it was neglected and poor land the said William retained the said land in his hands by might, because he was the lord's bailiff. And the said John did not dare to contradict him nor eject him from the said land until the time of sowing last past, and then he ejected him as was lawful to him, and has done him no injury therein. And they speak contrary and put themselves on an inquisition of 12 jurors. And the jurors say that the said John of his mere and free will granted to the said W. the said acre of land for a term of ten years in return for the costs and expenses expended on the said land, and the said John by agreement with him and Warren Wynd delivers [the land] by Sir J. de Watlington; it is considered that the said W. shall have the land for 2 years.

Oustred the Reeve complains in a plea of trespass against Adam of the Green defendant, and they agree by licence [of the lord]. And the said Adam puts himself in mercy by pledge of John. . . .

John Daunsere in mercy for damage done in the lord's wood by breaking and cutting down the lord's thorns on the heath, by pledge. Sum 42^{d}.

All the customaries of Brightwaltham have pledged themselves to the lord for recognition of the new Abbot elect, 20^{s} for his favour.

The tenants of Covenholt have pledged themselves for the same half a mark ; Geoffrey the villain who held a tenement of the lord in villainage called a cotsetle is dead, and the said tenement remains in the hands of Alice his wife for term of her life, and she finds a pledge to do the service and customs due and for the keep up of the tenement as is becoming, and late due and accustomed. And the lord hath of heriot one mutton.

ADDINGTON, SURREY

This manor was held by petty serjeantry or the service of serving a particular dish of pottage at the king's coronation. At the time of the following extract the manor was in the hands of Isabel, widow of Hugh Bardolph, to whom it was granted in the thirty-third year of Edward I., and who died seized of the same in the sixteenth year of Edward II. The following is among the Additional Rolls at the British Museum :—

Court held at Adingthon the Thursday next before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin the vijth year of the reign of King Edward II.

Essoins.

William de Leyham excuseth himself of common essoin—by Robert Cubbel. William Wolward excuseth himself of common essoin—by Elyas de Mer.

Thomas Cubbel in mercy because he hath not [William Prully][1] William Dudekyn whom he mainprised. And it is commanded to distrain the aforesaid William to answer at the next court.

Thomas Cubbel plaintiff opposes himself against Gervase le Leche in a plea of trespass. And it is commanded to distrain the aforesaid Gervase whereupon he answers that nothing can be found upon him and the said plea still stands,

[1] Erased.

let him be distrained at the next court to answer the said Thomas in the plea aforesaid. And it is commanded to attach John son of Chichelotes to answer concerning a trespass made on the heath.

Livery of a Tenement.

It is testified that Thomas le Fox who is a tenant of the lady has been taken into the hands of the lady, and, for concealment to the said lady, is claimed. And he comes and prays that he may hold the aforesaid tenement for term of his life in the same form as his father held the same, and it was granted him. And he gives to the lady ij^{s}. And he finds as pledges besides Thomas Cubbel, William Chauntrell William ffox and Ralph Lokes that he do not sell it, neither shall he go away from the said parcel without the licence of the lady. And afterwards it appeared that the said Thomas had bought a free tenement, to wit, 1 messuage and 2 acres of land in Croydon. And it is commanded that it be taken into the hands of the lady. And it was granted him that he may hold the aforesaid tenement in form aforesaid. And he gives to the lady 12^{d}. And he shall not leave the aforesaid tenement, as is aforesaid, under pain 100^{s}. And for this he finds pledges as aforesaid. Also it is testified that the land of Simon le ffox of which he had livery in Wicham is taken into the hands of the lady because the said Symon is a native[1] of the same lady, and he prays that he may hold the said land as long as he lives. And it was granted him. And he gives to the lady 6^{d} and a rent of 1^{d} yearly at the feast of St Michael. And he shall not leave the said tenement without licence of the lady. And for this he finds pledges, to wit, William Fox and Thomas Fox.

At this court it was commanded to [distrain] attach "Lorian" de Farleye to answer the lady of a trespass made in the Wesle with 1 horse &c. whereupon he was attached

[1] Born on the manor.

by gage[1] and he was not prosecuted. And the reaper in mercy because he hath not the gage here present.

Thomas Cubbel is summoned because he has concealed[2] $2\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ of bedripsilver[3] forthcoming of a certain tenement which is called le popeland and has detained the said $2\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ for 7 years past and still detains it. And he comes and says that sometime the said $2\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ was in arrears with the rent of the said [tenement]. And he has paid the same in name of rent every year among the rent which he owes for the said tenement. And he detains nothing of bedripsilver and owes nothing. And on this he asks for an inquisition by free men therefore it is commanded all the free tenants to come that they be at the next court &c. And aforesaid Thomas hath thereupon a day.

Walter de Westleye and Peter atte Hokkes are distrained for default and it is witnessed by the reaper that they were not summoned, therefore the matter is put in respite.

John Shad in mercy for a trespass made in Howelotesfeld with his draught cattle, pledge John atte Welle, fine 3^{d}.

Thomas Fox for a trespass made in the wood, also Hugh Gibbe in mercy for the same 3^{d}.

Rose Neuman for a trespass made with her sheep in the grass, pledge Thomas ffox 3^{d}.

John Wolward in mercy for his oxen in the wood, pledge W. Fox 3^{d}.

Richard Sanneye for his sheep, in . . . pledge Roger Sanneye 3^{d}.

John Shad because he has taken away furze in Howelcotesfeld, pledge Allan Russel 6^{d}.

Dionis atte hamme for his draught cattle in Howelcotesfeld, pledge John atte hamme.

Sabina Tampun in mercy because she has taken furze in Howelotesfeld, by gage of 1 plough—pardoned because she is poor.

[1] Pledge. [2] Kept back.
[3] Payment in commutation of bedrips or boon-work.

Thomas Cubbel in mercy because he hath not William Prelly for whom he was pledge. And it is commanded to distrain the aforesaid William to show how he came into the lord's fee 6^{d}.

Roger Sannaye in mercy for his sheep in the pasture, pledge Walter in ye Lane 6^{d}.

Thomas Cubbel and John Seynclere have agreed by licence of the lord, and the aforesaid John has put himself in mercy, pledge Walter the clerk and William Chaunter 6^{d}.

Thomas Cubbel opposes himself against Robert Russel in a plea of trespass which said Robert is not here, therefore let him be attached to answer the aforesaid Thomas at the next court. And the aforesaid Thomas may have a day. And upon this comes John de Bures and asks the court for a sow of aforesaid Robert of which he is not yet attached, and he hath a day till next court that he may better certify and show for himself why he ought to have the same. And John de Bures was distrained for a horse for relief, and he does not justify himself . . . pledge a water mill.

Thomas Cobbel opposes himself against Robert Cros who is not as yet attached. And it is commanded to attach, the aforesaid Robert to answer the aforesaid Thomas in a plea of trespass, and aforesaid Thomas thereupon hath a day. The vill present that Walter son of John de Bocksole and John de Bocksole make default therefore in mercy. The whole vill are charged to acknowledge that they are wrongdoers, because they have maliciously tied together the feet of the lady's swine. And they ask thereof a day at the next court, and they have it.

Sum 7^{s} 9^{d} and 1^{d} of increased rent which is included in the total sum.

CHAPTER IV

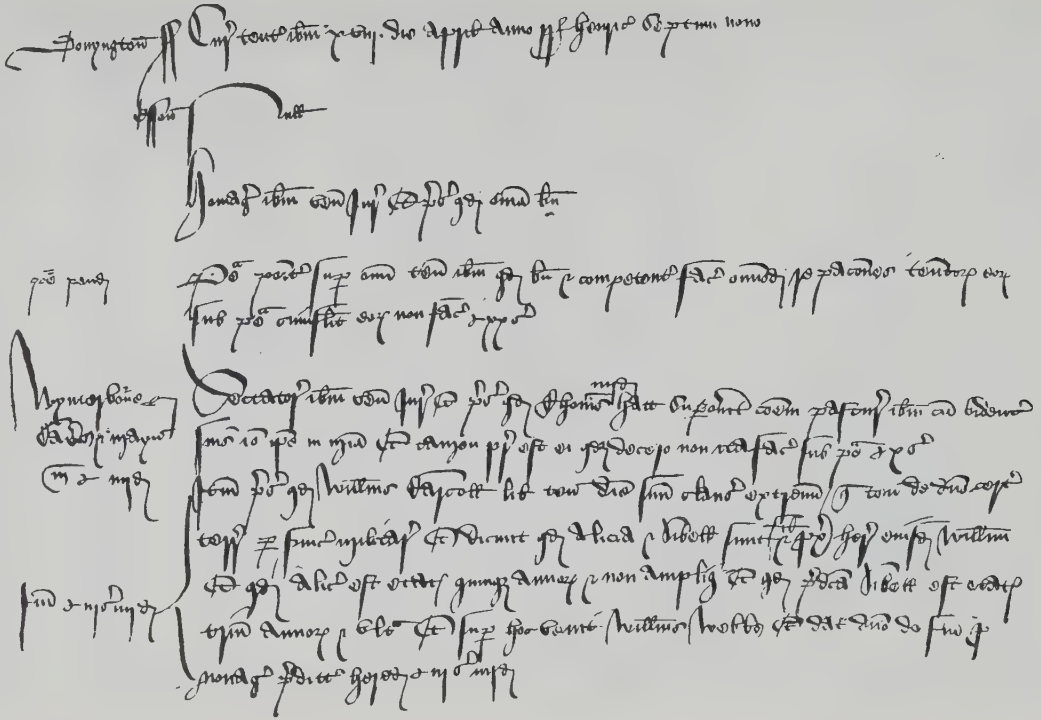
COURT ROLLS OF BERKS MANORS

THE Court Rolls of the following Berkshire manors are among the fine collection of Rolls of the Duchy of Lancaster which were presented to the nation by her late Majesty, and are now at the Public Record Office. These manors were at this time, and for some time after, parcels of the Duchy; that of Estgarston had been inherited by John of Gaunt, in right of his wife Blanche, and was held by the service of finding a knight, clad in plate armour, to serve in the king's army for forty days at the lord's cost, whenever he should be in the territory of Kidwelly, in Wales, of which manor this was a member. The other manors fell into the Duchy by attainder or escheat. It may be mentioned that surveys of them exist among the Duchy Records, *temp.* Elizabeth. The following are good examples of fifteenth-century procedure.

FIFIELD

View of Frankpledge held there, the last day of July in the 19th year of Henry the Sixth.

The tything man comes there, and presents 7s of cert



COURT ROLL OF DONINGTON, BERKS (9 HEN. VII.)

money[1] this day, and 4 quarters of fine wheat price per bushel ii^{d}—v^{s} 4^{d} sold. And they present that Robert Dodde 2^{d}, John, servant of John Golloffer 1^{d}, Thomas, servant of the said John 1^{d}, William Hykkes 1^{d}, John Huet, William Symmys 1^{d}, John Symkyns 2^{d}, William Croftacre i^{d}, William Symkyns 1^{d}, Richard Chapman 1^{d}, Walter Banester 1^{d}, John Ele 1^{d}, John Wayfer 1^{d}, William Levyng 2^{d}. . . . have brewed and broken the assize, Therefore they are in mercy [fined as above after their names].

And they present that Bray the miller has taken excessive toll, therefore he is in mercy.

And they present a swarm of bees, value 9^{d} forthcoming of estrays[2] about the feast of St. John Baptist last past, not claimed, but remaining to the lords. Therefore they are forfeited. And to the same [Court] comes Alice Strange and Thomas Bocher, and give to the lord for licence to brew from the feast of St. Michael last past to St. Michael next coming, as appears in the margin and over their names, 10^{d}.

The tything man of Kyngston comes into full court with his tything And gives of cert-money this day 20^{d}, and a quarter of fine wheat, sold to John Newman for 16^{d}. And that William Lord has brewed and broken the assize. Therefore he is in mercy. And that all other things are well.

The tything man of Dencheworth comes into full court with his whole tything. And gives of cert-money this day 4^{d}. And they present that John Smyth Hesy 1^{d} and John Spycer 1^{d} have brewed and broken the assize Therefore they are in mercy.

Verdict. 12 Jurors to wit Thomas Symkyns and his fellows come and present upon their oath that all the tything men

[1] *v.* p. 147, note.

[2] Extrahura = any stray found within a lordship, to be cried in the two nearest market towns on two market days; if not claimed within a year and a day it became the property of the lord.

abovesaid have presented well and faithfully in all things. And all other things are well.

Affeerers[1] { John Wybbyn / John Croftacre } Sworn in due form.

Sum { Of Cert-money of this view 9ˢ / Of perquisites of the Court 4ˢ 9ᵈ / Of Wardcorn 5 qrs.

FRILSHAM

View of frankpledge held there on Friday next after the feast of Holy Trinity in the 19th year of Hen. vj.

The tything man comes there with his whole tything and gives to the lord of cert-money this day 3ˢ 6ᵈ. And [they present] that John Pynno takes excessive toll. Therefore he is in mercy. And they present that Richard Umfrey 1ᵈ, John Whitehede 2ᵈ, Gilbert Selke 1ᵈ, John Skynner 1ᵈ, John Strode 1ᵈ have brewed and broken the assize. Therefore they are in mercy And they present 2 sheep forthcoming in the name of estrays, of which one is black, value 7ᵈ, the other white, value 7ᵈ, and remaining in the custody of John Longe, farmer of the manor there, and they have been proclaimed over a year, therefore they belong to the lord.

Affeerers { John Clerk / John Kynston } Sworn in due form.

Sum of this View with cert-money 5ˢ 8ᵈ.

COMPTON

View of frankpledge held there the Wednesday next before the feast of Sᵗ John Baptist in the 19th year of the reign of King Hen. VI. of England after the Conquest.

The tything man comes there and presents of cert-money

[1] Afferatores = the officers appointed to assess upon oath the amount of fines to be imposed on offenders.

this day 6d and a qr. of drag[1] called Wardcorn. And presents that Edward Longbord, Prior of Poughley makes default of his freehold.[2] Therefore he is in mercy. And presents a ewe sheep white, val. 12d forthcoming of estrays about the feast of St Michael last past, and remaining in the custody of Thomas Champp. And it was ordered the tything man to proclaim it. And they present that Henry Clynche 1d, Will Alwyn 1d, Thomas Champpe 1d, have brewed and broken the assize Therefore they are in mercy.

The tything man of East Ilsley comes into full court with his tything. And they present that Henry atte Mere and Will Ledulph are in sworn assize[3] of the lord King &c. And present that Constance Fraye has brewed and broken the assize. Therefore she is in mercy 3d. And that . . . Smart is in mercy because he has not presented against William Spicer.

The tything man of West Ilsley comes into full court with his tything And gives of cert-money this day 2s And they present that John Bynde and John Schoryet make default, the Prior of Sandelford and Elizabeth Romsey make default, Therefore they are in mercy.

Affeerers { John Potynger / William Ledulph } Sworn in due form.

Sum of the perquisites of this court with cert-money 4s 6d.

WOODSPENE

Court held there the 5th day of February in the fifteenth year of the reign of King Edward the Fourth after the conquest of England.

The Homage come there and present that Walter Bernard

[1] Dragium = a coarse kind of corn, here paid in lieu of Ward-penny for custody of a Castle, probably that of Donnington.

[2] The Prior has not attended the court.

[3] Sworn on the Assize jury, by which if villain tenants they would be enfranchised.

who held of the Lady[1] [of the manor] by the enfeoffment of John Botiller late of Spene, a free rent of 12^{d} and one messuage in socage, hath closed his last day. And upon this comes Edmund Bernard his son and next heir of full age and more. And he does fealty and gives of relief 12^{d}. And he is admitted tenant.

Also they present that John Hore, contrary to the ordinances and customs of this manor, keeps three mares to the grave damage of the tenants and his neighbours; therefore he is in mercy.

Also they present that the said John Hore has taken without licence an ox imparked outside the cornfield of Vincent Busshnells into the pinfold[2] of the Lady.

To this court comes William Crokkewell and claims to hold of the Lady one croft called Claycroft, and another called Jakescroft, and two acres of land lying in the southern part of Jakescroft, and half an acre of meadow in another part called Hedshulf, to hold to him for the term of his life, of which the date is the 24th day of April, in the fourth year of the reign of King Henry vj. paying therefor per ann. 5^{s} and suit of Court &c. and he shows the said copy in full court &c.

The said William Crokkewell shows another copy of a messuage, and 6 acres and a half of land with their appurtenances called Quenehows, to hold to him for the term of his life, of which the date is the 20th day of June the tenth year of the reign of King Edward the ivth, paying per ann. 3^{s} and services therefrom due &c.

The said William Crokkewell shows another copy of one meadow called Ukkefordysmede, to hold to him for the term of his life, of which the date is the 20th day of June the tenth year of the reign of King Edward the ivth, paying therefor per ann. 9^{s} 8^{d} and services therefrom due &c.

[1] Elizabeth Woodville, queen of Edward IV., these manors being part of her dower.

[2] Pinfold = the manor pound.

The said William Crokkewell holds at will without copy 18 acres of land in the fields of Benham, called Byland formerly Pydmans, and 2 acres of land called Smokacre, and 5 acres of meadow in the common pasture called Benhammede, paying therefor per ann. 8^{s}, and he used to pay per ann. 15^{s} Therefore it was commanded the bailiff to seize the same towards the feast of St. Michael next, and provide for the tenancy &c.

Sum of this Court 16^{d}

Affeerers { Robert Adams
Robert Webbe

ESTGARSTON

View with Court held there on the feast of St Luke the Evangelist in the twentieth year of the reign of King Edward the ivth.

Westend. The tything man comes there with his tything. And, being sworn, they present that they give of cert money for this day[1] 2^{s} And that Thomas Godard is a common butcher, and sells meat at excessive price. 2^{d}. And that John Baker is a common miller, and takes excessive toll. 2^{d}. And that John Nassh 1^{d}. has brewed, sold and broken the assize, Therefore he is in mercy.

And also they present a ewe sheep, white, value 8^{d}. forthcoming of estrays at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past; whereof the first proclamation is made.

Estend. The tything man comes there with his tything And being sworn they present that they give of cert money for this day 2^{s}. And that Philip Smythe 2^{d}. has brewed, sold, and broken the assize. And that his wife is a common baker and has made bread short of the assize [weight] And that John Gregory is a common butcher, and sells meat at excessive price. Therefore they are in mercy. And the

[1] Ad hunc diem, *i.e.* in consideration for this law day being held.

tything present that Thomas Godard made an assault upon John Gregory and Thomas Gregory with a stone of no value[1] against the peace of the Lord King. Therefore he is in mercy. And they also present that the said John and Thomas Gregory made an assault upon the said Thomas Godard with a stone of no value, against the peace of the lord King. Therefore they are in mercy.

12 freemen Jurors.

Thomas Kebulwyk	Robert Pycher
John Pownd	Will[m] Lovelok
John Hewes	John Crompe
William Hewes	Henry Knoll
John Bacon	Will[m] Paslewe
Henry Knoll	John Preston

Who, being sworn, say upon their oath that all things above specified are well and faithfully presented. And that all other things are well.

And at this court they elect to the office of tything man of West End, William Heth, and he is sworn. And John Hyll is removed.

The Homage there come. And being sworn present that William Mayowe of Hungerfford, who held of the lady certain meadows in Hungerfford, hath closed his last day. And what [heriot] falls to the lady by his decease they know not. Therefore it is commanded them to make inquiry against the next court, and certify of the truth thereof &c.

And also they present that William Carpynter, who held of the lady a messuage and virgate of land with their appurtenances, comes and surrenders [them] into the hand of the lady for the use and behoof of Sir Henry Wilby, Vicar there; whereupon there falls to the lady of heriot 15[d].[2]

[1] The instrument with which an assault was committed, or its value, was liable to forfeiture to the lord.

[2] An example of a heriot claimed at surrender or alienation.

And upon this comes the said Henry and takes of the lady the said messuage with a virgate of land and their appurtenances, to have and to hold to him for the term of his life, according to the custom of the manor, by rent and services aforetime due and accustomed. And he gives to the lady of fine to have entry 3^{s} 4^{d}. And he does fealty and is admitted tenant.

And also to the same [court] comes John Nassh and takes of the lady a cottage with garden adjacent and appurtenances, of late in the tenure of Agnes Morgan. To have and to hold the aforesaid cottage with garden adjacent, with its appurtenances, to him, Alice his wife and his [children] for the term of their lives, according to the Custom of the manor, by rent and services therefrom aforetime due and accustomed. And he gives to the lady of fine to have the said estate. . . . And he does fealty and is admitted tenant thereof.

Affeerers { William Wever / Walter Hasylden } Sworn.

Sum of this View with Court 11^{s} 3^{d}.

ESGTARSTON

Court held there the 17th day of April in the twenty first year of the reign of King Edward the IVth.

Essoins—none.

Estend. The tything there present that Thos. Noke 1^{d}, Philip Smythe 1^{d}, and William Wanborough 1^{d} have brewed and broken the assize. Therefore they are in mercy, as appears after their names.

Westend. The tything there present that William Garnet has brewed and broken the assize 2^{d}.

To this Court come John Fawler and Richard Fawler and take of the lady the Queen 2 meadows in Hungerford, appertaining to this manor, to wit, one meadow called

Millemede, and another called Wodemershe, in the hands of the Queen by the death of William Mayowe and the forfeiture of . . . Webbe, who divided the said meadows without licence, and made a subtenancy thereof, asserting that he conjointly in copy with the said William Mayowe held the said 2 meadows with the aforesaid William, who at the last court was commanded at this court to show his title, why the Queen the aforesaid meadows should not grant to others. And whereas the said . . . Webbe, although summoned at this Court, does not appear, the Steward in full court granted to the said John Fawler and Richard Fawler, the said 2 meadows in the name of the lady the Queen, to have to them for the term of their lives, according to the custom of the manor, by rent and services therefrom aforetime due and accustomed. And they do fealty and are admitted tenants.

Affeerers { William Cheyeroftex / Henry Knollys } Sworn.

Sum of this Court 1^{s} 6$\frac{3}{4}^{d}$.

View with court held there the 5th day of May in the 21st year of the reign of King Edward the IVth.

West End. The tything man comes there with his tything. And being sworn they present that they give of cert money for this day 2^{s} And Thomas Godard is a common butcher, and takes excessive gain 2^{d} And that John Baker is a miller, and takes excessive toll 2^{d} And that Thomas Clerk makes default 1^{d}.

Est End. The tything man comes there with his tything and being sworn they present that they give of cert money for this day 2^{s} And that John Gregory is a common butcher, and takes excessive gain 2^{d} And that John Smythe is a baker and has broken the assize 1^{d}.

To this court comes William Wodsford and has proved[1]

[1] *i.e.* claimed.

one black sheep in the custody of William Blondy: whereupon he is accused of forfing 11d.[1]

The homage there say that the cottage called Badleys, which used to pay per ann. 21½d now pays only 12d And it is let to John Nasshe until &c.

Affeerers { Robt. Pycher, John Bakon, Willm Blondy } Sworn.

Sum of this view with court 5s 2d.

Court held there on the Friday next after the feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary in the 21st year of Edwd. IVth.

Essoins—none.

The homage there come and present default of all the tenants of the said vill in repairs [of their tenements], whom it is commanded to make repairs against [the next court] under penalty of forfeiture.

Estend. The tything there present that William Wanborough has brewed and broken the assize.

Sum of this Court 3d ¾d.

To the same Court comes William Dudley and takes of the lady the Queen one stall in Hungerford, late in the tenancy of William Mayowe deceased. To have to him for the term of his life, according to the custom of the manor, by rent and service therefrom formerly due, and he does fealty and is admitted tenant.

DONYNTON

Court held there the 18th day of April the ninth year of the reign of King Henry the Seventh.

Essoins—none.

The homage there come and are sworn. And they present that all things are well.

A penalty is imposed upon all the tenants there that they shall well and competently make all repairs of their tenements, under penalty for each one of them not doing so 20s.

[1] Forfing = pre-emption or forestalling.

WINTERBORNE

The suitors there come and are sworn, and present that Thomas Hatt hath overburdened the common pasture there with his sheep, therefore he is in mercy.[1] And so it is commanded him for the future not to do so under penalty of 10^{s}.

Also they present that William Barcoll, freeholder, hath closed his last day, who held of the lord certain lands by knight service. And they say that Alice and Sibell are daughters and next heirs of the said William. And that Alice is five years of age and not more. And that the aforesaid Sibell is three years of age and over. And upon this comes William Webbe[2] and gives to the lord of fine for the minority of the aforesaid heirs 3^{s} 4^{d}.

Also they present that the said William Barcoll held of the lord, according to the custom of the manor there, 3 messuages with their appurtenances, after whose death there falls to the lord by way of heriot, a horse of a roan colour value 10^{s}. And upon this comes the aforesaid William Webbe, and takes of the lord the aforesaid 3 messuages with all their appurtenances. To have and to hold to him, and Thomas, and John, sons of the said William for the term of their lives, or of the one of them longest living, according to the custom of the manor there, by rent and other services therefrom aforetime due and of right accustomed. And moreover it was granted to the aforesaid William, Thomas, and John, that each of them shall have a sufficient deputy dwelling in the said 3 messuages with their appurtenances, during the term aforesaid. And he gives to the lord of fine for entry, and for possession of his estate, 6^{s} 8^{d} And further, the tenants shall give to the lord by way of heriot 10^{s}. And

[1] *i.e.* has placed more sheep there than he is entitled to do by his tenancy.

[2] William Webbe seeks the wardship or custody of the children till they come of age.

he does fealty to the lord, and so is admitted tenant thereof.

To the same court comes John Brown, and takes of the lord a cottage with the appurtenances in Blackemer, late in the tenure of John Bradeley. To have and to hold to him, for the term of his life, according to the custom of the manor there, by rent and other services therefrom due &c. And he shall give by way of heriot when it falls due 12^{d} And he does fealty to the lord. And so is admitted tenant thereof.

Affeerers { Thomas Wheler / Robert Wheler } Sworn.

In expenses of the Steward 13^{s} 10^{d}.

Sum of this Court 20^{s} 4^{d}.

PESEMERE

Court held there the 19th day of April in the ninth year of the reign of King Henry the Seventh.

Essoins—none.

The homage there come and are sworn. And present that the prior of Poughley, who owes suit for this law-day makes default. And that William Colyn and William Jeffrey have not yet made repairs of their tenements as they have often had in precept. Therefore they are in mercy. And so it is commanded them to make repair of their tenements aforesaid against the next [court] under penalty of forfeiture of the same.

To the same Court comes William Spycer, and does fealty to the lord and other services for the land and tenements late Thomas Ylley's. And so is admitted tenant thereof.

LECKHAMSTEAD

The suitors there come and are sworn And present that Roger Hamond, Nicholas Stretley, Will. Addenam, John

Helyer, Richard Meren, and Henry Baron have not yet made a gate, called Langham Yate, as they had in precept at the last court. Therefore they are in mercy. And so it is commanded them to make the same against the next court, under penalty to each of them in default 12^{d}.

Also they present that William Payn hath overburdened the common pasture there, called Cawleys, with his sheep, therefore he is in mercy 3^{s} 4^{d} And so it is commanded him that for the future he shall not do so under penalty of 40^{s}.

Affeerers { John Hatt
Richard Hide

Sum of this Court 5^{s} 6^{d}.

CHAPTER V

COURT ROLLS OF TAYNTON, OXON

THE Manor of Taynton was a small estate near Burford, Oxon, which belonged from an early period to Tewkesbury Abbey. The Court Rolls here printed cover the period when it passed from monastic control into the hands of the Crown. At the court held in the thirty-first year of Henry VIII., the tenants produce the copies of Court Rolls of their several holdings, and acknowledge themselves as tenants of the farmer, Ralph Norwood. The originals were kindly lent to the author by Mr. Percy Manning, of Oxford, being part of a series in his possession.

TAYNTON, OXON

Court of the Lord Abbott of Tewkesbury, lord of the Manor there, held 6th July 1. Henry vij. by Philip Warton servant of the said lord and deputy of Richard Croft chief steward of the said Manor.

Essoins—Thomas Hutchyns of common essoin by Robert Shawe.

The Homage come and present that the lord of Fulbroke makes default as in the preceding Court. And that Thomas Edward gives to the lord of fine for release of his suit[1] 6d.

[1] To be excused from attendance at court.

And that John Howse and Thomas Lambard who owe suit make default this day, Therefore they are in mercy.

And they present that William Shawe hath not yet repaired the sheepfold of his tenement as he had in precept at the preceding Court.

And that the kitchen of the tenement of Thomas Hucchyns is defective as to the roof. And the ox-shed of the tenement of Thomas Michell is similarly defective, for which reparations a day is named for them before the feast of S^{t}. James Apostle next ensuing, under pain imposed on each of them 10^{s}. And that Sir Robert Hawker, Rector there, permits certain buildings of the tenement which he holds to [remain in an unfinished condition] to wit, a grange of three rooms lately built, and he hath a day, as well to complete the said grange, as to repair all other buildings of his tenement before the said feast, under penalty of 40^{s}. And the grange of the tenement of John Wyther is not worth repair, therefore at this Court he hath a day to rebuild the said grange before the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord next ensuing, under pain aforesaid. And Richard Smyth, servant of the Rector there, permits a chamber and the grange of his tenement to be defective, and he hath a day to sufficiently repair the said chamber and grange, before the feast aforesaid, under pain of 10^{s}, by pledge[1] of the aforesaid Rector, the said Richard's master, without any grace to be had thereof.

And it is presented that John Glover, who had in precept at the last Court held on Friday the morrow of St Thomas the Martyr the 3rd year of Richard III. late King, to sufficiently repair the tenement called Sareshowse, under pain of forfeiture of the same, hath done nothing as yet thereon; therefore it is considered the said tenement with the appurtenances should remain at this court forfeited to the Lord.

[1] The Rector was surety.

It is also presented by the homage that William Shawe, who held of the Lord 3 messuages and 3 virgates of land with appurtenance called Shawes, hath surrendered the same into the hands of the lord to the use of Thomas Lepear, whereupon there falls to the lord of heriot for the said 3 messuages, 2 mares and 1 hogster, value in all 3^s 10^d. And upon this comes the aforesaid Thomas Lepear and takes of the lord all the tenements aforesaid: to hold to him for term of his life, according to the custom of the manor, by rent and services therefrom formerly due. And he takes upon himself the reparation of all the buildings of the tenements aforesaid. And gives to the lord of fine 20^d which is assigned to him for timber on account of the repair of the buildings of the said tenement by him to be done. And so he is admitted tenant, and does fealty to the lord.

And it is also presented that Laurence Coke who held of the lord 1 messuage and half a virgate of land called Howses, hath surrendered the same before Richard Croft chief steward of the lord, to the use of John Wyther, whereof there falls to the lord of heriot a cow value 6^s, and so sold to the said Laurence. And upon this comes the aforesaid John Wither and takes of the lord the aforesaid messuage with the appurtenances To hold to him for term of his life according to the custom of the manor by rent and services therefrom formerly due. And takes upon himself the reparation of all the buildings of the messuage aforesaid And gives to the lord of fine 3^s 4^d to have entry into the said messuage. And so is admitted tenant and does fealty to the Lord.

And John Banty a tenant, according to the custom of the Manor, hath not made his continuous suit[1] at the lord's mill as he is bound by custom of his lordship, therefore he is in mercy 12^d.

And William Payne the lord's woodward presents that William Hogges of Fulbroke in the County of Oxon, within

[1] He has not taken his corn to be ground at the lord's mill.

the wood of the lord [by his] forest of Whichewood, hath entered and cut down by his servants certain trees and saplings, and hath carried them away before the woodward without his licence. Therefore it is presented against him by writ.

Affeerers { John Halowe
Robert Shawe

Sum of this Court 15^{s}.

TEYNTON

Court of the Lord E Abbot of Tewkesbury, lord of the manor there held Thursday next before the feast of St Thomas the Martyr 2 Henry vij.

[Presentments for reparations of tenements as in last court.]

It is presented that Edmund Chadwell who holds of the lord a messuage and a virgate of land and other parcels of forland [1] hath died since the last Court, wherefore there falls to the lord of heriot a mare value 4^{s}, and so sold to William Hobbes And the said tenement remains in the hands of the lord. And upon this comes Richard Charley and takes of the lord the said tenement, to hold to him for term of life, according to the custom of the manor, by the rent and services therefrom aforetime due, and gives to the lord of fine 4^{s} and does fealty.

And Robert Wyse comes who, since the feast of the Nativity of our Lord last past, hath surrendered against the feast of St Michael next ensuing to the use of Edward Michell 1 messuage and 1 virgate of land late John Shaw's, whereupon there falls to the lord of heriot a cow value 6^{s} 8^{d}. And since the surrender the said Edward is dead, and so the said tenement, by desire of all the tenants, is occupied by Alice his relict for rent and services due, by surety of all the tenants, until the feast of St Michael which shall be in the year of our Lord 1488.

[1] Forland = land at the extremity of an estate.

And Edward Michell, who held of the lord a messuage and . . . of land, hath died since the last Court whereupon there falls a heriot 1 cow value 6^{s}, and so sold to Alice relict of said Edward. And the tenement remains in the lord's hands. And William Cowper comes and takes the same and gives 3^{s} fine and does fealty.

Sum of this Court 25. 2^{d}.

TAYNTON

Court of Ralph Norwood esquire held there 7th May the 31st year of the reign of the most illustrious and most dread prince Henry viij. by the grace of God King of England &c.

Names of the Tenants.

William Byrcholl	Ralph Taylor
Robert Frebury	John Agasson
Lawrence Pemmerton	Thomas Frebury
Robert Baker	Robert Solveck
William Bedill	Clement Mychell
Thomas Mychell	Thomas Hill
Robert Stokes	John Hutchyns

All the abovesaid Tenants in this full Court have attorneyed, and acknowledged themselves to be the tenants of Ralph Norwood esquire, to wit each of them by the payment of 1^{d}. And each of them does fealty to the lord.

To this Court comes Robert Shellvock and produces a copy bearing date 4th Dec. 30th year of Henry viij. concerning a messuage and half virgate of land with their appurtenances &c. To hold to the aforesaid Robert and Robert his son for term of life. And for heriot when it shall fall 5^{s}.

To this Court comes Robert Stokes and shows a copy bearing date 9th Dec. 27 Hen. viij. of one messuage and a virgate of land called Rechynners. And another messuage and virgate of land called Carters, and of a toft and half virgate of land called Panyers, and of a curtilage (court) with

house built on it, 5 acres of land and meadow, and a virgate called Shawes To hold to him and Alice his wife for term of their lives. And a heriot when it shall fall 13^{s} 4^{d}.

To this Court comes William Ansley and produces a copy before the steward bearing date 4th Nov. 30 Hen. viij. of 3 messuages and 2½ virgates of land with appurtenances called Shawes. To have to him for term of life. And a heriot when it shall fall 15^{s}.

To this Court comes Robert Gun and produces a copy bearing date 4th Nov. 30 Hen. viij. of the reversion of a messuage and virgate of land with appurtenances called Prattes, now in the tenure of Robert Frebury. To hold to him and Agnes his wife and Alice and Margaret their daughters for term of lives &c. And a heriot when it shall fall &c.

To this Court comes Richard Gun and produces a copy openly in Court before the steward bearing date 4th Nov. 30 Hen. viij. of the reversion of 3 messuages and 2½ virgates of land with appurtenances called Banketts and Prattes, now in the tenure of Clement Mychell, To hold to him for term of life &c. And a heriot when it shall fall &c.

To this Court comes William Cowper and produces a copy, bearing date 5th Dec. 12 Hen. vij., of a messuage and ½ virgate of land with appurtenances called Brewers, and also of a close and 4 acres of land called Hoordes. To hold to him for term of life And a heriot &c.

To this Court comes Ralph Taylor and produces a copy, bearing date 4 Nov. 30 Hen. viij. of the reversion of a messuage and 4 acres of land and of half a virgate of land now in the tenure of William Cowper. To hold to him and William his son for their lives &c. And a heriot &c.

And the same Ralph comes and produces a copy bearing the same date of the reversion of 2 messuages and 2 virgates of land now in the tenure of William Bedall, and of the reversion of one messuage and half a virgate of land now in

the tenure of Thomas Mychell. To hold to him and William and Robert his sons for term of lives. And he shall give in name of heriot when it falls 20^{s}.

And the said Ralph comes and produces a copy bearing the same date of the reversion of 2 messuages and half virgate of land with appurtenances now in the tenure of Thomas. . . . To hold to him and Richard his son for term of lives and a heriot &c.

And the said Ralph comes and produces a copy of same date of 2 messuages with appurtenances called Shares. To hold to him and William his son for term of lives and a heriot &c.

And the said Ralph comes and produces a copy of same date of the reversion of 3 messuages and 2½ virgates with appurtenance now in the tenure of William Lopez jun^{r}. To hold to him and William his son for term of lives and a heriot &c.

And the said Ralph comes and produces a copy of date 9th July 22 Hen. viij. of 3 messuages and 3 virgates with appurtenances under a yearly rent of 30^{s}. To hold to him and Elizabeth his wife and William their son for term of lives. And a heriot when it falls 10^{s}.

[Laurence Pemmerton, John Hychyns, Wm Bedyll, John Agas, Thomas Michell, William Burchall, Robert Baker, Thos. Hill, Clement Mychell, Thomas Frebury come and produce copies of Court Rolls of their several holdings.]

And they present that the tenements of William Ansley, John Hychens, William Bedyll, Robert Baker, John Agas, Thomas Frebury, Robert Stokes, Clement Mychell are ruinous for want of timber. And it is commanded them to repair the same before the feast of All Saints under pain each of them 3^{s} 4^{d} And it is commanded all the tenants there that each of them have his tenement well and sufficiently made with a roof of thatch before the feast of All Saints aforesaid under pain each of them 12^{d}.

And that no keeper shall pen his sheep in the wheat fields after the feast of St Andrew Apostle under pain, each delinquent 6^{s} 8^{d}. And that no one shall cut down any thorns called Borow-bushes on the Townes and the Quarreys hereafter, under pain for every such bush 3^{s} 4^{d}.

And they present that Robert Huchyns, miller there, hath encroached upon the lord's land and enclosed the common there to the value of ½ an acre by estimation, and has made a garden by his mill: it is commanded that it be done away with before the feast of the Nativity of St John Baptist under pain 3^{s} 4^{d} And that [the tenants] have their paths about the village stopped up before the feast of Pentecost under pain for each path 20^{d}.

And that no one permits his pigs to roam until the harvest is over, under pain for each pig 2^{d} for three offences And that every one has his pigs rung before the feast of St Martin, under pain for each pig 2^{d} to be paid to the lord. [Surveyors of cattle elected.]

And it is commanded that every one shall sow his lands lying within the bounds, to wit in the "hechen" field under pain each one 6^{s} 8^{d}.

TEYNTON

Court of Ralph Norwood Esquire held 23rd April 32 Hen. viij.

Essoins.

George Lord Cobham	Thomas Lamberd
John Edwards	Robert Payn

Free suitors.

John Ward appears	Robert Stokes appears

The homage being sworn and charged upon the articles of the Court present upon their oath that George Lord Cobham, John Edwards, and Robert Payne are free suitors and owe suit at this Court and have made default. Therefore each of them in mercy.

And that Thomas Lambard who held of the Lord freely one messuage and one virgate of land by a yearly rent of 6^{s} 8^{d} hath closed his last day Whereupon there falls to the Lord of relief 6^{s} 8^{d}. And that Robert Lambard is his son and heir and 46 years old and more; but by what services the aforesaid messuage is held the homage know not. And it is commanded to distrain him to do fealty.

And William Cowper, who held of the lord a messuage and half a virgate of land with appurtenances called Brewers, and a close and 4 acres called les Hoords, hath closed his last day: whereupon there falls to the lord a cow of a dun colour value 10^{s}.

And all the tenants there shall have their tenements well and sufficiently repaired within the feast of All Saints, under pain of each one making default 20^{s}.

Thomas Mychell, Robert Pemmerton, Robert Stokes, William Byrchall are elected to take account of, and supervise all the cattle and sheep within this lordship for this year. And every tenant who hath more than he can keep [in winter] the same shall be removed before the feast of the Invention of Holy Cross, under pain of each default 20^{d}.

It is ordained that no tenant there shall take agistment[1] within said lordship henceforth, except a horse for the plough, or a cow for the pail, for the sustenance of his house, under pain of each default 3^{s} 4^{d}.

Afferers { Robert Frebury
Clement Mychell

TEYNTON

Court of the manor of the lord King held there 13th Dec. 32 Hen. viij.

Essoins—none.

The homage there to wit Robert Frebury, William Burchall, Robert Baker, William Bedell, Thomas Mychell, Ralph

[1] Agistamentum = pasturage.

Tayllor, Robert Stokes, John Agas, Thomas Frebury, Robert Shelffocke, William Ansley, Clement Michell, Thomas Hill, and John Hychene, being sworn and charged by the Steward present, upon their oath that the lands and tenements late George Lord Cobham's remain in the hands of the lord King by reason of an exchange for other lands.

And that Robert Lambard, John Edwards, Robert Payne, John Ward, and Robert Stokes are free tenants and owe suit of Court and have appeared.

And that Laurence Pemerton, who held of the lord King according to the custom of the manor, three messuages whereof one is called Hornes Barne another Stayarhows and a third late in the tenure of William Welles, and before him of Richard Michell, and three virgates of land by a rent for the whole per ann. is dead since the last court; whereupon there falls to the lord of heriot for the two messuages one young ox and a cow valued both at 18^{d} delivered to Ralph Norwood esq. the King's farmer there, and for the third messuage no heriot as yet And let there be an inquiry thereof before the next court, because the homage present the said messuage is not heriotable. And the first proclamation is made And no one comes.

To this court comes Robert Lamberd, son and heir of Thomas Lamberd, deceased, and does fealty to the lord for a messuage and virgate of land with appurtenance late of Thomas his father, and gives for relief 6^{s} 8^{d}.

And Robert Tayllor, since the last court, has cut down an elm, to wit a timber tree worth 6^{d}, without licence of any of the lord King's officers; but the said Robert used the same tree for repair of his tenement; therefore let him have a talk thereupon with the King's officer before next court.

And the aforesaid Laurence Pemerton, in his life time, substituted Walter Milleward as his subtenant in the said messuage called the Stayarhows, contrary to the custom of

the manor, without licence; therefore let him have a talk thereon with the King's officer before the next court.

And that William Bedell, Robert Baker, John Agas, Thomas Frebury, Robert Stokes, and Clement Michell have forfeited to the lord King each of them 40^{d} because they have not repaired the defects of their tenements before the feast of All Saints last past as they had in precept at the last Court. But they are bound till the next court, because no one was assigned to deliver them timber for the said repairs.

And Robert Huchyns, the miller there, has not restored his encroachment of the land by the mill, as he had in precept at the last Court, under pain of forfeiture to the lord King 40^{d} but said pain in respite till next Court, upon view thereof to be had.

It is ordained that no keeper shall place his penning sheep on the wheat field after the feast of St Martin in future, under pain for each offence of forfeiture to the King 6^{s} 8^{d}.

Sum of Court 24^{s} 8^{d}.

TAYNTON

Court of Ralph Norwodd farmer, of the lord King of his manor of Teynton, held there 19th of September 33rd Hen. viij.

Essoins—none.

The Homage there—William Byrchall, Robert Baker, William Bedall, Thomas Michell, Ralph Taylor, Robert Frebury, Robert Stokes, John Agas, Thomas Frebury, Robert Shelfack, William Ansley, Clement Michell, Thomas Hill and John Hyehyde being sworn and charged of and upon the articles of the court, present upon their oath that the tenants of the land of George Lord Cobham, now in the hands of the lord King, Robert Payne, John Ward, Robert Stokes, Robert Lambert, John Edwards, free tenants enfeoffed of the Church there for certain land held of this

manor, are free tenants and owe suit of court at this law day.

A pain upon all the tenants there for renewal of all their tenures from now till the feast of Easter next coming, under pain of 2^s to each of them falling in default 6^s 8^d.

It is ordained by the court, that the miller of the customary mill shall in future well grind the grain of the tenants, and that he shall not take excessive toll under pain of 10^s. And further, that all the tenants shall grind their grain viz. corn, barley and silige[1] at the customary mill and not elsewhere, if they can be served there, and that they shall not use hand mills for the future under pain each of them 6^s 8^d.

Also it is presented that John Huchyns is a common trespasser with all his people in the corn and grain of the tenants there, to their grave hurt. Therefore he is in mercy 20^d.

It is presented that the homage survey an encroachment made by John Hychens who has encroached one ferendell[2] of land, parcel of the tenure of Elizabeth Pemerton, widow, at her lands there And also to survey one acre of land now in dispute between the said Hychens and William Anysley customary tenants, to which of them by right the said land belongs. And also to survey a tree which the said Hychens, as is supposed, has cut down on the land belonging to the farm there, at the feast of All Saints next coming, and thereupon to certify at the next court under pain 6^s 8^d And similarly, that the homage make a view of an encroachment at Littlemonelight, supposed to be made by Thomas Frebury, and thereof to certify at the next court.

It is ordained that if any of the tenants there shall permit his young colts to be depastured in the fields that are sown, not tied up, or having a keeper, and should damage be done there, he shall forfeit to the lord 3^s 4^d.

To this Court comes John Frebury father of John Frebury

[1] Silige = winter wheat. [2] Quarter of an acre.

deceased, and one Richard Dys and they show a certain copy of Court Roll, the tenor of which follows in these words—

At the Manor Court held there 4th Nov. the 30th year of Henry the 8th and enrolled at said Court, there came John Frebury and took a reversion of a messuage and half a virgate of land with appurtenances called Brewes. And reversion of a close and four acres of land with appurtenances called Herdes, now in the tenure of William Cowper: to have and to hold the aforesaid messuage and other the premises with their appurtenances to the aforesaid John Frebury, William his [son], and Alice his daughter for term of their lives and the survivors successively, according to the custom of the manor, by rent and all other services therefrom before due and of right accustomed, when, after the death, surrender or forfeiture of the said William Cowper it falls into the hand of the King, and a heriot when it happens. And he gives to the lord of fine to have said estate 10s and fealty is respited &c. And aforesaid John is dead, and neither aforesaid William nor Alice at the making of said copy were natives[1] of the manor Therefore the copy is invalid And this is affirmed by the homage. And upon this proclamation is made if any one &c. And no one comes to claim the same Therefore &c.

To this Court comes Thomas Selye and takes of the Lord a messuage and half a virgate of land with appurtenances called Brewers and a close and four acres of land with appurtenances called Heyrdes late in the tenure of William Cowper To hold to him for term of life, according to the custom of the manor, by a rent per ann. of 6s and all other customs, heriots and fines &c. And he gives for fine of entry 40s and does fealty and is admitted tenant thereof.

Affeerers { William Byrcher / Robert Baker } being sworn.

[1] They were not customary tenants.

CHAPTER VI

COURT ROLLS OF GNOSSALL, STAFFS

THE following Court Rolls of Gnossall, Staffordshire, embrace a period from Henry VI. to Elizabeth. The church of Gnossall was bestowed by King Stephen on the see of Lichfield; it afterwards became a royal chapel with a dean and four prebendaries, Chitternhall, Beverley Hall, Mordhall, and Sukarhall. The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield was Dean *temp.* Henry VIII. These rolls were kindly placed at the disposal of the writer by their present owner, the General Editor.

GNOSALL

Court of Thomas Whetegreve, knight, prebendary of the prebend of Chytonhale, and James Langton, prebendary of the prebend of Morehall, held there the Wednesday next after the feast of St John Baptist 26th Henry VI.

Essoins—none.

The homage present that John Congreve, John Lye, Thomas Smyth, John Mason [owe suit and have not come; each in mercy] 12^d^.

John Robyns, cousin and heir of John Robyns of Burton by Stafford comes into the Court of the prebend of Morehall and gives . . . to have an Inquisition to inquire what lands and tenements William Milleward of Chatewall Magna died

seized of in Chatwall aforesaid, and who is his next heir. And upon this an Inquisition was taken.

Court of James Langton, Prebendary of the Prebend of Morehale, held there the Wednesday next before the feast of St Margaret, the year above written.

John Taillor of Newport complains against William Ryggeby of a plea of debt of 21^{d}. And he prays for a summons against next court.

Ralph Watton son and heir of Thomas Watton of Wheton Aston comes into Court and surrenders into the hands of the lord a messuage and half a virgate of land with appurtenances in Chatwall, to the use and behoof of Thomas Dawe, which said Thomas comes into Court and takes seisin thereof of the lord. To hold to him, his heirs and assigns according to the custom of the manor And he gives to the lord of fine . . . And does fealty.

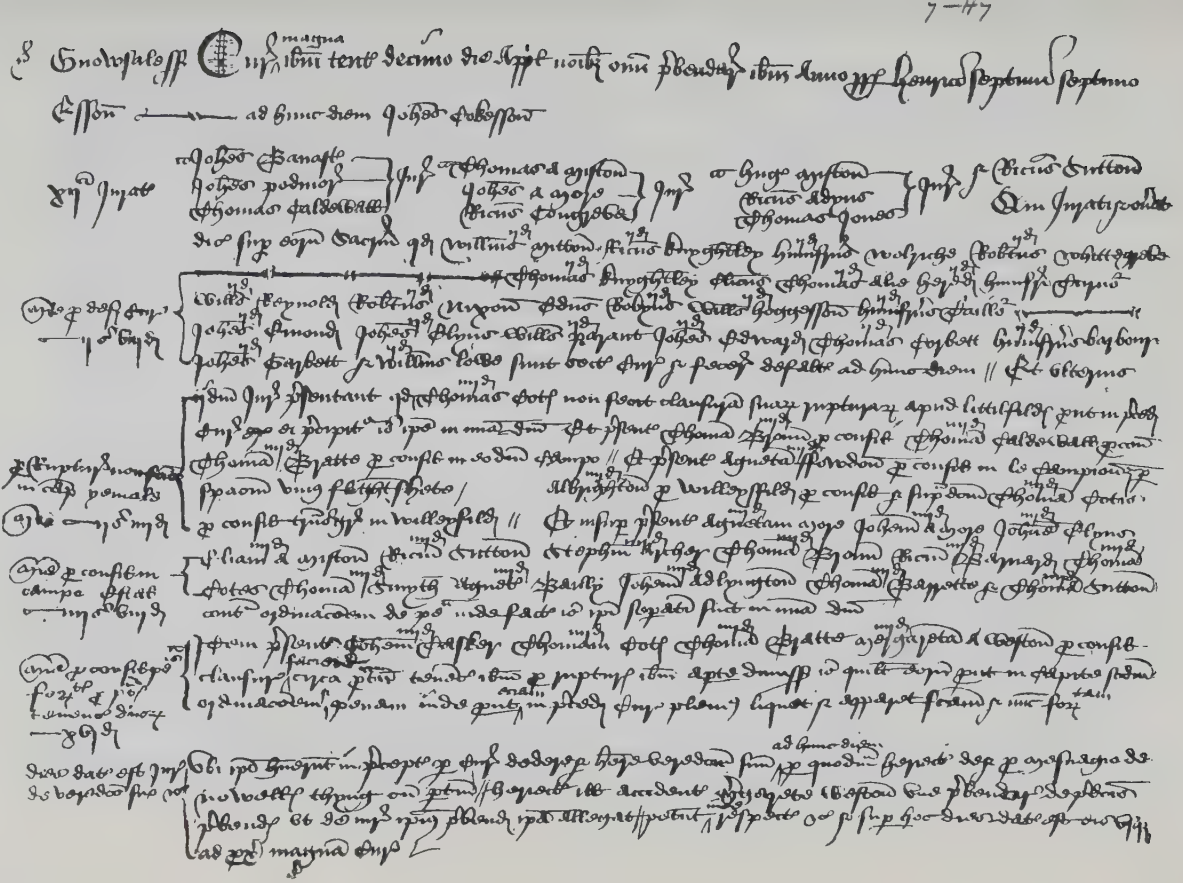
Court of Master James Langton prebendary of Morehale, held the Wednesday next before the feast of St Peter ad vincula the year above-written.

The homage present that Richard Weston, who held of the lord five messuages according to the custom of the manor, is dead after whose death there falls to the lord a heriot . . . And the land remains until . . .

Court of Thomas Whetegreve Prebendary of the Prebend of Chylternehall held there the Wednesday next before the feast of St Michael 27th Hen. vj.

Richard Cokstan comes into Court by Thomas Russell his attorney and surrenders into the hands of the Lord a cottage with appurtenances in Gnosall to the use of Thomas Weston; which said Thomas comes into Court and takes seisin thereof of the lord, to hold to him, his heirs and assigns according to the custom of the manor. And he gives of fine 40^{d}. And does fealty.

The homage present that Richard Weston who held two tofts with their appurtenances is dead, after whose death there falls to the lord a heriot . . .



COURT ROLL OF GNOSSALL, STAFFS. (7 HEN. VII.)

GNOSALL

Court of John Breeche, Prebendary of the Prebend of Sucarshall, held there Tuesday on the Vigil of Holy Cross 30 Hen. vj.

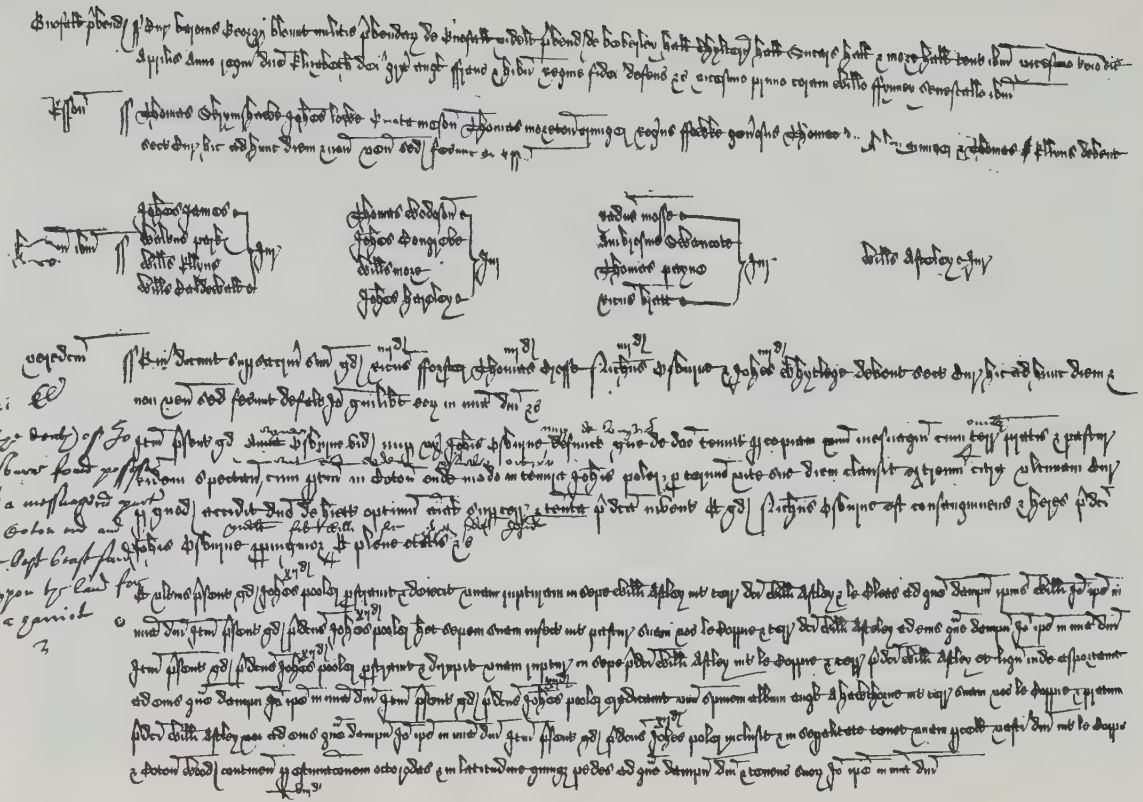
The homage present that John Taillor of Coton owes suit and does not come. And that one messuage with appurtenances which Elizabeth Banaster held for term of her life by the service of 2^{s} 6^{d}, remains in the hand of the lord by default; therefore it is commanded the bailiff that he account to the lord for the issues of the same until &c. And that a toft with appurtenances in Gnosall, in the tenure of Richard Banaster by the service of 10^{d}, remains in the hand of the lord for default of heirs. Therefore it is commanded the bailiff that he account to the lord of the issues of the same until &c.

Katherine Peyall, daughter and heir of John Elyns, comes into Court and takes seisin from the lord of Sewkarsworthhall of one toft within the fee of Holys. To hold to her, her heirs and assigns according to the custom &c. And gives of relief 2^{s} and does fealty.

Roger Meston, son and heir of Reginald Meston, comes into Court and takes seisin of a messuage and half a virgate of land in Chatwall. To hold to him &c. And gives of relief 12^{d}.

Court of John Breyche held there Monday after the feast of S^{t} . . . 31 Hen. vj.

Alice Weston comes into Court and takes seisin of one messuage and two cottages in Holys which Richard Weston, late her husband, left her by will. To hold for term of life according to the custom of the manor, so that after her decease the aforesaid messuage and cottages should remain to the right heirs of said Richard for ever, to be held of the lord according to the custom of the Manor, and she gives of fine 5^{s}.



COURT ROLL OF GNOSSALL, STAFFS (21 ELIZ.)

Court of John Bryche held there Wednesday next before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary 32 Hen. vj.

The homage present that Richard Taillor, who held of the lord of the prebend aforesaid a messuage in Coton is dead, after whose death there falls to the lord a heriot. And that John Taillor is his son and next heir, but whether he had seisin thereof in court they know not.

GNOSSALL

Great Court held there 10th April in the names of all the prebendaries the 7th year of Henry vij.

The Jurors.

John Banaster	Thomas a Miston
Hugh Miston	John Podmore
John a More	Richard Adyns
Thomas Caldewall	Richard Congreve
Thomas Jones	Richard Sutton

Who, being sworn and charged, say upon their oath that William Mitton 2d, Richard Knightly 2d, Humphrey Wolriche 2d, Robert Whitgreve 2d, Thomas Knightley, clerk, 2d, Thomas Alie, heir of Humphrey Turnor 2d, William Reynold 2d, Robert Nixon 2d, Edward Robyns 2d, William Hoggesson 2d, Humphrey Taillor 2d, John Emond 2d, John Elyns 2d, William Parant 2d, John Edwards 2d, Thomas Corbett 2d, Humphrey Barbour 2d, John Garbett 2d, William Lowe 2d, are suitors of Court and make default. Fines 2s 8d.

The same Jurors present that Thomas Cotes has not made enclosure of his ruptures[1] at Littelfield, as in precept of the Court it was commanded him, therefore he is in the mercy of the lord 4d And they present Thomas Brown, Thomas Caldewall, and Thomas Bratt for a similar offence in

[1] Rupture=a piece of arable land.

the same field 4^{d} each, Agnes Fowden for a similar offence 4^{d}, . . . Albrighton for a like offence 4^{d} and Thomas Cotes for a like trespass in Willeyfield, each in mercy 4^{d}—2^{s} 4^{d}.

And Agnes More, John More, John Elyns, Elias a Miston, Richard Sutton, Stephen Archer, Thomas Broun, Richard Barnard, Thomas Cotes, Thomas Smyth, Agnes Bailly, John Adlyngton, Thomas Barrett, Thomas Sutton for a like offence in the field Estal, against the ordinance thereof made. Therefore each in the mercy of the lord 4^{d}—4^{s} 8^{d}.

Also they present John Tasker, Thomas Cotes, Thomas Bratte and Margaret Weston for a similar offence, and they to enclose the meadow demised to the tenants for a rupture &c. each of them to forfeit 4^{d} as by ordinance of preceding court 16^{d}.

Further they had in precept by the court to deliver their verdict at this law day for a certain heriot of and for the messuage of Nowells thyng with the appurtenances, the same heriot falling to Margaret Weston,[1] one of the prebendaries of the aforesaid prebends, as of right of the said prebend, as she alleges, and she asks for the matter to be respited, upon which a day is given till the next great Court.

Thomas Broun is presented that he sufficiently fence the ditch, which is an annoyance to his neighbours, between the Wall meadow and John Banaster's croft, before the feast of Pentecost next coming, under pain 12^{d} Agnes More is presented that she sufficiently make her enclosure, and also cleanse her ditch round the said enclosure, before the feast aforesaid, under pain 12^{d}.

And in like manner William Lowe, Thomas Crofts and Agnes More are presented that they sufficiently fence their enclosures in Sekworth croft, before the feast of Holy Cross in May next coming, under pain each of them 6^{d}.

[1] This *rara avis*, a lady prebendary, may perhaps be accounted for by the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield having farmed out the prebend for a lease of lives, the same falling to Margaret Weston as heiress. Chapters were occasionally called to account at Episcopal Visitations for such transactions.

And the jurors say and present that three foul pools are lying at le Holide not flushed, to the hurt of the neighbours by the Butchersfieldside, by default of Thomas Cotes, whom it is commanded by the Court to amend the same before the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, under pain of each not cleansed 4^{d}.

Also it is presented that Robert a London hath 5 more cows tethered in the common fields of the tenants than he ought to have by the ordinance of this Court, as appears in the preceding Court; therefore he shall forfeit the penalty thereupon imposed. And they present that Gilbert White and Roger Sterke overburden the common of the tenants to their grave hurt, therefore they are severally in the mercy of the lord.

Elena Congulton complains against John Tasker. Robert Bratte complains against Robert Brasmyll of a plea of debt upon demand 9^{s} 9^{d}, therefore in mercy. Agnes More complains against Thomas Sutton, it is put into the taxation of John More and Thos. Miston.[1] Thos. Banaster complains against Richard a Dene of a plea of debt on demand. Robert Colclough complains against Thos. Cotes of a plea of debt.

Afferers { John Podmore
Richard Sutton

GNOSSALL

Little Court held there on Tuesday next after the feast of the Ascension of our Lord 13 Hen. vij.

To this Court comes Thomas Meston and surrenders into the hands of the lord a messuage called Meston thyng with two half virgates of land, one called Strelfyld and the other called Balmefyld, to the use of Elyas Meston, to be held to him his heirs and assigns, according to the custom of the Manor.

[And Elias Meston comes and takes the said messuage and is admitted.]

[1] These tenants are appointed arbitrators.

Great Court held there on the feast of St Lucy Virgin 14 Hen. vij. . . .

Humfrey Pursall has died since the last court who held of the lord 4 messuages, and there falls to the lord a cow of a spotted colour, by name of heriot. And said Humphrey had a cottage lying in the prebend of Morshall, of the infeoffment of Sir William Blakeman, and died seized of the same, whereupon there falls to the lord a red cloak.

A pain is placed upon the tenants of the prebends to make their enclosures about the Wynterfield before the feast of St Luke, each of the tenants 4^d^ and each of the foreigners[1] 8^d^, also to make gates, tenants 6^d^, foreigners 12^d^.

A pain is placed upon the tenants of the prebends to make their enclosures about the common meadow before the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary, each of the tenants 4^d^ foreigners 8^d^.

A pain is placed upon the tenants to make their enclosures about the Lentfield before the feast of St Chad Bishop, each tenant 4^d^, and foreigner 8^d^. And in the same way the gates.

A pain is placed upon all the foreign tenants that they do not depasture their cattle upon the tenants dwelling within the demesne, under pain 40^d^ each offence. A pain is placed upon all the foreigners that they do not cut down any croppings in the woods, without licence of the lords or their officers, under pain 12^d^ each offence.

A pain is placed upon William Hugson and Anne More to make their enclosures by Sukars Croft by the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary, under pain each one 12^d^.

Afferers { John More
Thomas Aley

[1] Foreign tenants = those outside the demesne.

GNOSSALL

Little Court held there 10th Jan. 14 Henry vij.

Richard Sutton complains against Richard Adyns in a plea of debt.

A pain is placed upon Agnes More that she make her enclosure by Robert Smith's, before the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary, under pain 40d. . . .

To this Court comes Richard Elens, otherwise called Richard Sadeler of Tetenall, by Thomas Forster chaplain his attorney, and surrenders into the hands of the lord a cottage with garden lying in Gnossall in the prebend of Morehall, to the use of Michael Salmon his heirs and assigns, according to the custom of the manor.

And Michael Salmon comes and takes the said cottage, and gives of fine to the lord 40d and hath seisin thereof and does fealty and is admitted tenant.

MOREHALL, CHITTERNEHALL, BEVERLEY HALL, AND SUCARSHALL

Court Baron of George Blount Knt. farmer of the most reverend father in Christ Thomas, by divine permission, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, of his late prebends of Morehall Chitternhall Beverley hall and Sucarshall, held at Gnossall 16th Nov. 16 Eliz. before William Finney, steward there.

The homage present that Richard Forster owes suit at this Court, and makes default. Therefore in mercy.

Also that Thomas Crosse, who held of the lord a cottage with a garden adjacent with appurtenances in Gnossall, within the late prebend of Morehall, by copy of court roll according to the custom of the manor, by a rent of 4s per annum, died thereof seised since the last court, by whose death there falls to the lord a heriot, one ox 3li 10s. And

that Thomas Crosse is son and heir of aforesaid Thomas and of full age.

And that John Osburne and Agnes his wife were seised of a messuage and one virgate of land at Cotonend, within the late prebend of Sucars hall, to wit, the aforesaid John in his demesne as of fee, and aforesaid Agnes in her demesne as of freehold. And aforesaid John has died since the last court, and aforesaid Agnes survived him, and kept herself within,[1] and was, and still is, seised thereof for term of her life by right accruing.

And that Richard and Thomas Podmore have ploughed up a certain parcel of land called a meer balk in the field called the Highfield, to the hurt of their neighbours, therefore in mercy, each 12^{d}.

And said Richard and Thomas with John Poler have ploughed up another balk in the same field near Clays headland: in mercy each 12^{d}.

And said Richard Podmore has appropriated to himself four furrows in the said Highfield. Therefore in mercy 12^{d}.

And Thomas Podmore has lopped and felled an oak of John Poler in Highfield near Manymarlpits to the grave damage of him John. Therefore in mercy.

To this Court comes Thomas Crosse, son and heir of Thomas Crosse, in his own person and takes of the lord the aforesaid cottage and garden in Gnossall. To have and to hold to the said Thomas Crosse, according to the custom of the manor, by rent and services therefrom due and of right accustomed, and he gives of relief 4^{d} and does fealty and is admitted tenant.

Court held at Gnossall 2nd Oct. 20 Elizabeth. The presentment of Thomas Podmore, in the name of the right worshipfull Thomas Knightley esquire, of the evil demeanour of John Pooler, exhibited at the Great Leet held as above.

[1] *i.e.* remained unmarried.

Imprimis, the said Pooler ever since the last Leet Law day hath and yet doth keep open heyment[1] between him and the said Podmore. The said Pooler hath sowed oats upon his own ground, so that the said Podmore could never have his cattle going at liberty, for fear of having the same mischieved by the said Pooler. Wherefore the said Podmore hath been driven to keep or tie up his said cattle all this last summer, to the great hindrance and annoyance of the said Podmore. The said Pooler in like manner hath and doth keep open heyment between the Highfield and his own yard or backside. And also between his said backside and the ground of the said Podmore, so that not only the cattle of the said Pooler, but also all other men's cattle which come out of the common field into the ground of the said Pooler do, through the heyment of the said Pooler, come into the ground of the said Podmore to his great loss and hindrance. So that the said Podmore in the name of his master, the said Thomas Knightley esquire, prays that by order of the Court he may have sufficient pains laid upon the said Pooler to keep up his heyment from time to time, and at all times accordingly to keep the said Podmore harmless.

Also the said Pooler hath in like manner kept open heyment between the said Highfield and a cornfield belonging to Besscote, so that the said Podmore could not have his cattle going in the "eddish" field but was driven to keep his cattle in, lest he had them impounded at Besscote.

Also the said Podmore complaineth that the said Pooler hath kept his swine and geese in the cornfields this last harvest time, by means whereof the said Podmore hath sustained great loss of corn. And namely in one place to the value of 19 sheaves of dredge, which keeping is contrary to the order of the Court.

[1] A boundary, a fence.

GNOSSALL

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron of George Blount knt. farmer of Thomas, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield held there the 8th Oct. the 21st year of Eliz. before William Finney, steward.

Richard Barnett and Henry James, surveyors of hedges there, present that Richard Mosse hath a piece of arable land unenclosed[1] at Wylley Style. Also that Richard Caton hath the same between his croft and Crosse field, to the grave damage of their neighbours, therefore they are in the mercy of the lord.

And they elect to the office of surveyors of hedges there for the following year John Hytcchins and Thomas Davies.

COTON END

Thomas Swanne, headborough there, being sworn, presents that all is well. And there is elected to the office of headborough for the following year Humphrey Parkes who is sworn.

GREAT CHATWALL

William Yesthorpe, headborough there, being sworn, presents that all is well, and there is elected to the office of headborough for the following year John Jobber who is sworn.

GNOSSALL

Richard Coton, Thomas Barnard, William Lockytt, Robert Jordyn headboroughs there, being sworn, present that Laurence Bratt hath made an affray upon Richard Coton with an axe worth 12d called a hatchet, against the peace of our lady the Queen. Therefore he is in the lord's mercy and the axe shall be forfeited. And George Payne hath made an affray on Robert Jordyn with a bow, value 2d

[1] *i.e.* during the time that the tenants were bound to enclose, between seed-time and harvest.

against the peace &c. and Robert Jordyn hath insulted Humphrey Grettebache with opprobrious words against the peace &c. therefore they are in the mercy of the lord.

Richard Bratt and John Ferniall, surveyors of water courses there, being sworn, present that all is well. And there is elected to the said offices there for the year following, Henry James and Thomas Forster.

Richard Coton and Thomas Payne, aletasters there, being sworn, present that Richard Hodgson, Elizabeth Payne widow, Thomas Forster, William Lockett and Richard Bratt are common brewers and have broken the assize. Therefore they are in the mercy of the lord. Also that Richard Hodgson, Thomas Forster and Richard Bratt are common bakers of human bread[1] and have broken the assize, therefore in the mercy of the lord.

The Homage, being sworn and charged concerning divers articles touching this court come and affirm that all and singular the officers aforesaid have above presented are true, and that they have well and faithfully presented and have made no concealment. And they further present that Francis Hytchyns, Robert Jordyn, Laurence Shustock and John Wylkenson owe suit at this court this day, and do not come but make default. Therefore they are in mercy of the lord.

Also that Laurence Bratt, Richard Caton, John Fernyhall and John Wylkynson jun. have played together at a certain unlawful game called "le tables" in Richard Hodgeson's house at Gnossall, within the precinct and jurisdiction of this court, and that game then and there have used, contrary to the form of the statute in this case late published and provided, and that Richard Hodgson, Thomas Forster and Richard Bratt permitted divers unlawful games, called le cards and le tables, to be played by divers unknown men in their several houses there, against the form of the statute 38 Hen. viij. Also Richard Bratt hath a pig unrung contrary

[1] As opposed to horse bread, a kind of coarse oaten bread for horses.

to the form of the pain 4d. Also George Hill for a porker unrung 4d. Also William Walker brews beer and breaks the assize and John Hall does the same. And Elizabeth Payne is a baker of human bread and breaks the assize. And they are in mercy.

And John Poler has forfeited the pain imposed on him at the last court for not causing his water course at Lampyttes flat in the field called Little field at Coton End to be scoured and cleansed. Therefore he incurs the pain 3s 4d, and John Poler has depastured his beasts and consumed the grass and corn in the field called Highfield at Coton End, to the grave damage of his neighbours, and he also assaulted and made an affray on Richard Astley within the age of ten years with a bill worth 8d, and then and there beat and maltreated the said Richard against the peace of the Lady the Queen. Therefore he is in mercy and the aforesaid bill is forfeited; and said John Poler hath not repaired his hedge between Highfield and a parcel of land called le Pyngle to the grave damage &c.

And a pain is imposed upon all the tenants and inhabitants of Great Chatwall that each of them, before the feast of the Purification B.V.M. next ensuing, shall well and sufficiently make and repair their hedge round the meadow called the Towne meadow in Gt Chatwall under pain of forfeiture to the lord for each holding 12d.

And John Clerke, servant of Richard Barnett, hath driven the cattle of Rich. Barnett into the field called Highfield, to the hurt of his neighbours, therefore he is in the mercy of the lord 6d.

There is elected to the office of constable of Gnossal for the ensuing year Thomas Podmore who is sworn.

Thomas Davis fined 4d for retiring from the court after being summoned without leave, in contempt of the Court.

Afferers { Robert Jones / William Moers } being sworn.

Court Baron held at Gnossall 1st May 25 Eliz.

To this court comes Leonard More son and heir of John More in his own person. And in full court surrendered into the hand of the lord a messuage called More end with houses, buildings and ponds to the said messuage belonging. And a pasture called Colletts Hey, a pasture called Over Furlong otherwise Wheatfield, a pasture called Duffe house furlong alias Nether field, a pasture called Mill Orchard, a meadow called le Helde, a meadow called More ende, a meadow with a parcel of land called Old Orchard, a small meadow lying at the top of the Wall meadow near the house where John Fernyall now dwells, a cottage with a croft adjacent near Sawyers Gappe, a silion of arable land in a field called Lowfield near Holney gate, and 6 silions of arable land lying together in a field called Crossefield by Sawyers Gappe, within the said late prebend of Chetternhall and one cottage with croft adjacent now in the occupation of Henry James, within the said late prebend of Morehall, to the use and behoof of aforesaid Leonard More and Margery his wife for term of the lives of said Leonard and Margery and to either of them being the survivor, for this intention, that the said Margery, after the death of said Leonard, with the issues and profits of the premises shall educate Philip More, Margaret More and Anne More children of the aforesaid Leonard and shall prefer them in marriage and also pay the debts of him Leonard. And after the decease of them Leonard and Margery, to the use of John More, son and heir apparent of him Leonard, and his heirs and assigns for ever. And upon this come aforesaid Leonard, Margery and John and take the premises of the lord and give for fine to the lord for the premises in Chilternhall 3s 4d, and for the cottage &c. in Morehall 3s, and they do fealty and are admitted tenants.

GNOSSALL

View of frankpledge with Court Baron of Robert Harecourt gent, Francis Chewnall and Nicholas Peyne of the manor aforesaid held there 28th April 27th Eliz.

The tithing men of Gnossall present that George Barret hath made an affray on William Ashley with his fists against the Queen's peace : therefore in mercy 20d. William Osburne of Plardswicke and Thomas Barneffild of Knightley have made an affray on each other &c. Therefore in mercy separately 20d. And William Lockett hath made an affray upon Thomasine Hall with a stick of no value. Therefore in mercy 20d. Also they present that Thomas Barnard, Richard Caton, John Peyne the smyth, John Hall, John Fernyhall, John Jones, William Darges, John Wilkenson junr. have played at a certain unlawful game called le tables and cards in Gnossall contrary to the statute—amerced each 2s. And Thomasine Hall, spinster and Elizabeth Lockett, wife of William Lockett, are common scolds (objurgatores) with their neighbours, to their annoyance. Therefore aforesaid Thomasine and William are in mercy. Also they present that Francis Hytchins hath used to walk nightly in the town of Gnossall and to rail and scold with the headboroughs of the same town sundry times, saying that he would break their heads, with divers other threatening words, as well against the said headboroughs, as against divers others of the Queen's subjects inhabiting the said town of Gnossall, and that he the said Francis is a common drunkard, a disturber of the Queen's Majesty's peace, and a disquieter of his neighbours to the evil and perilous example of others contrary to the peace of our sovereign lady the Queen. Wherefore the said Francis is amerced 3s 4d.

Also they present that Humphrey More hath received and kept in his house in Gnossall, and yet doth, one Margery Tagge who is known to be a common hoore and is of evil name,

fame and conversation amongst neighbours to the evil and perilous example of others. Wherefore he is to be amerced 20^{d}.

Also that Thomas Ellyns, not having lands and tenements to the yearly value of 40^{s}, keeps a greyhound in Cotton End within the precinct and jurisdiction of this view of frankpledge, contrary to the form of the statute.

And that the inhabitants of Gnossall have not repaired their common bounds called le Butts in Gnossall, by which the said bounds have remained in bad repair for three months last past, contrary to the form of the statute &c. Therefore amerced 6^{s} 8^{d}.

And they present that Roger Jones, not having lands and tenements to the yearly value of 20 marks, hath not used a cap on Sunday last past according to the form of the statute on this behalf lately made and provided.[1]

And a pain is laid on all the inhabitants and residents, being householders in Gnossall, that each of them by himself or by another be prepared to cleanse the common stream in Gnossall when necessary under pain 20^{d}.

Also they present that Leonard Ecclesall holds in severalty a parcel of the lord's waste in Gnossall lately enclosed by him without licence. Therefore he is in mercy of the lord 4^{d}. Also that John Stevynson hath ploughed up a path leading to the Hollies towards Gnossall Church, and hath stopped up the way to the hurt of his neighbours. Therefore in mercy 12^{d}. And that he hath not repaired and set up a stile between Hollies Lane, Church Field and Bochers Field to his neighbours damage. And a pain was placed upon the said John Stevynson that he, before the feast of the Ascension of our Lord next ensuing, should cause a sufficient stile

[1] By an Act passed 13 Eliz., to encourage the wool trade, it was enacted that every person over six years of age, not having lands to the value of 20 marks a year, should wear on Sundays and holidays a cap of wool, knit and dressed in England, under pain of 3^{s} 4^{d}.

to be made in the accustomed place there. And to keep it in repair under pain of 3^{s} 4^{d}.

And further that John Poler has thrown down a stile lately set up on a path there, between the land of said John called the Cleys and the land late in the tenure of Thomas Podmore in Coton End, to the damage of his neighbours. Therefore he is in mercy and the said John Poler has diverted a stream out of its right course in a field called Highe Field in Cotton end, to the prejudice and grave damage of the lord and his tenants. . . . And that the east side of William Walker's house in Great Chatwall stands upon the lord's land. Therefore the lord shall provide a remedy for the same.

And that Antony Fletcher, senior, has erected his hedge between Holl meadow and Hollow Brook in G^{t} Chatwall, whereby he has encroached on a parcel of land lying between the aforesaid meadow and aforesaid brook to the damage of the lord and his tenants. And a pain was placed upon the said Antony that he, before the feast of St Michael next ensuing, shall erect his hedge aforesaid in the right place—6^{s} 8^{d}.

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron held at Gnossall 20th Oct. 28 Eliz.

The homage present that Robert Jeffrey late of Gnossall, weaver, on the 5th Aug. 28 Eliz. by force and arms at Gnossall aforesaid, feloniously stole, took and carried away 12 loads of hay to the value of 12^{d} of the goods and chattels of one Laurence Bratt. And that whereas John Cocks had taken certain animals and then and there imparked them at Gnossall, a certain Katherine Lynehill, servant of Robert Cowper, by force and arms broke into the aforesaid park and took and led away the aforesaid animals against the peace &c. Therefore in mercy.

View of Frankpledge with court held at Gnossall 18th Oct. 34 Eliz.

The homage present Richard Barnard who holds in severalty a croft of land containing one acre in Gnossall which ought to lie open in a certain field called Little Field according to ancient custom. Therefore in mercy. Also the said Richard has deposited hemp in the stream called Gnossall Brook. And has washed the said hemp there to the hurt of his neighbours against the statute. And John Hanley has done the same in a brook called Dorley. And John Poler has driven his beasts into the fields where he hath no common. Therefore in mercy. And Richard Thruston of Cowley and Hugh Thruston of the same have done the same.

And Thomas Warter has deposited his dung in the high street of Gnossal by which he has obstructed the said street to the hurt of the Queen's lieges passing through the same.

GNOSSALL

View of Frankpledge with Court Baron of Robert Harecourt gent, Francis Chownall and Nicholas Payne of the manors or late prebends of Gnossall to wit of Morehall, Chilternehall, Beyverley hall and Sucarhall held at Gnossall aforesaid the 7th May 35 Eliz.

Essoins.

Humphrey Whytgreve esq, Thomas Skrymsher esq, Roger Fowke esq, Thomas Podmore, John Wood, Richard Hill, Thomas West, Ralph Palmer, John James, Thomas Crosse, John Whitlege, Nicholas More, and John Lowe owe suit at this court this day and do not come but have made their excuse.

Humphrey Coleshall, John Hatton and John Beardesley surveyors of water courses there are sworn and present that John Poler of Cowley hath a water course unscoured in a meadow called Allyne More in Gnossall. Therefore he has

forfeited the pain to wit 3^s 4^d. And similarly Laurence Brett in a meadow called Wall meadow 3^s 4^d. And Francis Chewnall in a meadow called le Acres. And similarly Nicholas Payne, John Payne and Richard Barnard jun. and they each forfeit the same pain to wit 3^s 4^d. And John Coton hath a water course unscoured in a field called le Lytle meadow to the grave damage &c. Therefore in the mercy of the lord.

John Hatton and Francis Payne, cooper, surveyors of pigs there being sworn, present that William Hall hath and keeps three pigs unrung in Gnossall which subvert the land of their neighbours to the great damage of their neighbours. Therefore in mercy of the lord 20^d. And John Poler of Cowley the same, xij^d.

And William Jace for selling meat at excessive price. Therefore in mercy of the lord 4^d.

And Richard Barnard for a piece of land unfenced between certain fields called le Richard and Campyon field to the grave damage &c. Therefore in mercy 4^d.

John Astley, tithing man there, being sworn presents that John Poler of Cowley hath driven his beasts on and upon the lord's waste called Coton Wood in Gnossall where he hath not common, to the prejudice of the lord and his tenants. And Agnes wife of John Addams is a common spoiler of her neighbours' hedges. Therefore the aforesaid John is in the lord's mercy.

The homage present that Richard Barnard jun. holds in severalty a parcel of land of the lord's waste in Gnossall, containing by estimation one acre, by him late enclosed without the lord's leave. [Several other tenants presented for enclosures without licence.]

Also they present Thomas Crosse, who dwells in a cottage in Gnossall within the precinct and jurisdiction, for voluntarily permitting one George Payne to live with him in the said cottage for the space of three months.

Also they present that Richard Foster esq. who holds of

the lord a cottage with the appurtenances, by copy of Court Roll in Gnossall, hath permitted the said cottage to be ruinous and in decay, in default of reparation, against the custom of the manor.

A pain laid upon all such persons that shall brew any ale or beer to sell in Gnossall, that every of them shall not sell and utter by retail any of the best ale or beer that he or she shall so brew to sell, above 4^{d} the gallon of ale measure, that is to say, a quart of ale or beer for 1^{d} of ale measure, and so after the rate, upon pain to forfeit for every quart 6^{d}.

And that none of them shall deny or refuse to sell any of their best ale or beer, that he or she shall so brew to sell, to any person requiring the same after the measure aforesaid, upon pain to forfeit for every such refusal 12^{d}.

Affeerers { John Coton / Roger Jones } sworn.

CHAPTER VII

ACCOUNT ROLLS

THE great Rolls of the Pipe are the returns of the sheriffs, made up every Michaelmas, of the revenues of the Crown and sent into the Exchequer. In a similar manner we find from very early times the bailiffs, reeves and other officers of the great monastic houses returning their annual audit at the same term. This example was in time followed by all lords of manors, so that each estate had a series of annual accounts modelled after those of the Crown. These may be said to exhibit the manor at rest, and throw a flood of light on the industrial conditions under which our ancestors lived. We shall proceed to give selections from these accounts chosen from different periods from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century. As may be expected, they differ considerably in form from a modern rent roll. In the first place, they are written in Latin, interspersed here and there with English words where the accountant's stock of Latin failed him. The figures are not arranged in columns, but the account is written in a narrative form, the figures sometimes in the middle, sometimes at the end of a sentence, so that the addition of the various items was of a somewhat complicated character. They are

arranged in paragraphs under their various headings, such as sale of stock, expenses of the reaping, etc., the totals of the several items being given at the end of each paragraph. The following are examples of manorial accounts of a royal and a monastic estate respectively :—

THE REEVE'S ACCOUNT OF THE MANOR OF BARKHAM, BERKS, TEMP. EDWARD I.

The following Compotus of the issues and expenses of the Manor of Barkham for the 4th year of Edw. I. is among the early series of Ministers' Accounts at the Public Record Office. It was a manor of ancient demesne, returned in *Domesday* as in the hands of the king.

Compotus of William Bullock, Reeve of Barkham from the feast of St Gregory Pope, the fourth year of King Edward son of King Henry to the Purification of Blessed Mary next ensuing.

Rents of Assize.

The same answers for £4 2. 9 yield of the whole rents of assize per annum. Sum £4. 2. 9.

Works sold.

The same answers for 39^s^ 8^d^ yield of the rents and customs sold [*i.e.* commuted for money payments] And for 2^s^ 1^d^ yield of 10 cocks and 10 hens of Chirset[1] sold And for 3^d^ yield of 38½ eggs sold. Sum 42^s^.

[1] Chirset (popular version of Church-scot). Originally a "scot" or contribution due to the Church, it became a fixed manorial due, payable to the lord, and not appearing to reach any further hand. It was fastened in fixed amount on certain tenures, payable at Martinmas (11th November), generally in corn for seed or in eggs or hens from poorer tenants (see Murray's *Eng. Dict.*, s.v., for quotations from Bede and other Saxon authorities). All authorities concur in saying that it was a tribute to the clergy, payable for conscience' sake by each householder. No clue to its becoming a fixed manorial due is found.

Issues of the Manor.

The same answers for $2^s\ 5^d$ yield of the pannage[1] of the hogs of the lord's tenants And for 5^s yield of beechmast sold And for $25^s\ 1^d$ for pasture sold And 4^s for meadow sold and 9^d for furze sold And 2^d for rushes sold; and 20^d for forage sold. Sum $40^s\ 11^d$.

Sale of Grain.

The same answers for $11^s\ 4^d$ yield of 2 qrs. of rye, price per qr. $5^s\ 8^d$ And of $15^s\ 8^d\frac{1}{4}$ for 4 qrs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of rye sold, price per qr. $4^s\ 8^d$ And of 7^s for $3\frac{1}{2}$ qrs. of oats sold price pr. qr. 2^s And of $25^s\ 2^d$ for 13 qrs. 1 bush. of oats price per qr. 23^d. Sum $58^s\ 10^d\frac{1}{4}$.

Talliage.

The same answers for 20^s yield of the talliage of the whole manor. Sum 20^s.

Fines and Perquisites.

The same answers for 9^s of . . . le Grant for entry on a purpresture[2] which contains 6 acres. And for 7^s for a heriot of William Symond and for 8^s paid by his son William for entry on his father's lands And for 2^s 4 yield of pleas and perquisites. Sum $26^s\ 4^d$.

Sum of the whole receipts £13 $10^s\ 10^d\frac{1}{4}$.

Acquittances.

And he answers in acquittance of a Reeve for one year $10^s\ 2\frac{1}{2}^d$ And in Hedage[3] paid 8^d. $10^s\ 10\frac{1}{2}^d$.

Expenses for necessaries.

The same answers for 1 qr. 6 bush. of oats bought for sowing 21^d price per qr. 12^d. For ploughing and harrowing $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres for oats—$17\frac{1}{2}^d$. For the said oats and for 4 acres of

[1] Pannage = fees payable to the lord from tenants running their swine in the manor woods.

[2] Purpresture = an encroachment.

[3] Hedage = toll paid at a wharf.

corn and $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of oats, reaping and binding, $22\frac{1}{2}^{d}$, price per acre 3^{d}. For carriage of corn and oats 2^{d}. For 4 qrs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ bush. of corn and 4 qrs. 1 bush. of oats, threshing and winnowing, 12^{d}. For $1\frac{1}{4}$ qrs. of corn bought 5^{s} price pr. qr. 40^{d}. For $12\frac{1}{2}$ qrs. of oats bought 16^{s} $1^{d}\frac{3}{4}$ price per qr. $15\frac{1}{2}^{d}$.

Sum 27^{s} 10^{d}.

Sum of the the total expenses 38^{s} $8\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ And so he owes clear £11 12^{s} $1\frac{3}{4}^{d}$ which he pays upon his account and is quit.

ACCOUNT ROLL OF THE MANORS OF BICESTER PRIORY, OXON, TEMP. HENRY VI.

Compotus of Sir Richard Parentyn, Prior and Brother Richard Albon, Canon and Bursar there, of all the goods received and delivered by them from the morrow of St Michael the Archangel the third year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest to the morrow of the same feast in the fourth year of the said King's reign.

Curtlington.

Imprimis, the same answer for a red rose received on the day of St John Baptist from Henry Bowell of Curtlington above written, for certain lands and tenements which the aforesaid Henry holds there by Indenture thereof made.

Newenton-Purcell.

And of a grain of gillyflower, received at Easter for certain lands and tenements formerly Roger de Stodley's, and now certain of them are appropriated to John Purcell lord of the same place to hold to him and his heirs for ever.

Pouhele.

From which nothing this year.

Arrears.

Also they answer for £78. 12. $5\frac{1}{2}$ remaining of arrears of the preceding year, as appears at the foot of the account of the same year. Sum £78. 12. $5\frac{1}{2}$.

Rents with farms.

And of £4. 4. 4 received of the rent of 14 tenements in Burcester, Buryend and Kingend as appears by the rental this year, and of 36^{s} received of the farm of a horse-mill within the Priory this year, and no more because of the default of the miller, who, when he had occupied the same for half a year or more, departed and paid nothing. And of 26^{s} 8^{d} received of a water-mill there. And of 73^{s} 4^{d} received of the rents of tenants in Wrechewyke as appears by the rental this year. And of 56^{s} 6^{d} received of lands meadows and pastures lying in the fields of Wrechewyk aforesaid, devised to divers men of Blakethorne and others, as appears by tally against William Spinan, collector of rents of that place this year. And of 66^{s} 8^{d} received of John Ive, for the farm of a new close by Gravenhull per annum. And of 35^{s} 6^{d} received of the dairy of the Breche as appears by the Roll of Account of John Day and Margery his wife this year. And of 37^{li} 8^{s} received for rent in Dadyngton, Clyfton and Hampton, with farm of the manor and mills of Clifton aforesaid with issues of courts, portmotes and tolls of the markets as appears by account of John Wolfe, collector of rents there this year. And of 31^{li} 13^{s} 4^{d} received of Stratton Audley grange, as appears by account of Nicholas Aleyn, bailiff there. And of 6^{s} 8^{d} received of a certain tenement which the said Nicholas holds there. And of 40^{s} received of the farm of Caversfield. And of 13^{li} 6^{s} 8^{d} received of the farm of Grymmesbury, and of 4^{li} 13^{s} 4^{d} received of the farm of Westcote this year, and no more because of decay of rent. And of 26^{s} 8^{d} received from Blakenhull arable and pasture in the parish of Wodesdon, and of 54^{s} 4^{d} received for rent in Arncote, with hidage there this year, and of 33^{s} 4^{d} received from John Chamber and John Yve for the site of the manor house with demesne lands and meadows there per annum, and of 2^{s} received for rent at Fringford, and for 13^{li} 6^{s} 8^{d} received from John Donesmore for farm of

Bemount, and for 4^{li} 4^{s} 2^{d} received for rent in Curtlington by tally against William Newman, rent collector there, and for 16^{li} received from the farm of Ardington church, and for 4^{li} 13^{s} 4^{d} for farm of Letcombe, and no more on account of decay of rent, and for 5^{li} 6^{s} 8^{d} received from the farm of our portion in Compton Basset church, and no more because of the decay of rent there, and for 18^{s} received for rent in Wendlebury, and for 4^{s} 4^{d} rent in Takely, and . . . rent in Mudlington.—Total 165^{li} 19^{s} 6^{d}.

Issues of the Manor.

And for 8^{d} received for a fowl sold by John Deye at Buckingham on the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul this year. And 21^{s} 8^{d} received for 10 qrs. of peas sold to John Nuttebeme, and for 37^{s} 7^{d} received for 18 qrs. 2 bush. of peas sold to divers men by parcels this year, and for 26^{s} 8^{d} received for the straw of the peas sold to John Trote, and for 2^{s} 4^{d} for old hay at Crockwell sold to Robert Grene, and for 12^{s} received for 5 ox-hides, and 4^{s} forthcoming of the stock of the ox-shed, and 1^{s} for a certain heifer killed at the larder and sold by the cook as appears by his daybook, and of 2^{s} 7^{d} for 2 calf-skins of the stock at the Breche and killed for the guesthouse, as appears by the day book of sales this year.

Issues of the Sheepfold.

And for 4^{s} received for 21 lambs sold to John Deye of Wrechwyke, and 9^{s} for 36 sheepskins killed for the guesthouse between the end of Michaelmas and Lent and sold by Brother William Chesterton, cook this year. And 3^{s} 1^{d} received for 15 sheep-pelts of stock killed for the guesthouse between sheep shearing and Michaelmas and sold by the same; and for 10^{li} 18^{s} 6^{d} received for 23 tods of pure wool sold to a certain merchant at Oxford at 9^{s} 6^{d} a tod, and 12^{s} received for refuse wool sold to Nicholas Aleyn, and 2^{s} for broken wool to wit "lokys" collected at sheep shearing sold to John Deye.

Foreign receipts.

20^{d} received for underwood sold by Thomas Seler at Bernwode, and 2^{s} 7½^{d} received in part payment of the tithe of lambs in Burcester, Wrechwyke and Bygenhall, and of 100^{s} received of the Vicar of Burcester as a donation towards the work of the dormitory newly made this year, and 20^{d} given by John Tanner towards the same work this year.

Demise of Lands.

And of 5^{s} received for half a virgate of land with half an acre of meadow in Longdolemead, and for half an acre of meadow in Aylmersmead, demised to Richard Cooke by copy for term of his life.

Sale of Grass.

8^{s} received for all the tithe of hay and headlands lying at Northmead demised to Thos. Keep this year, and 5^{s} from Mulneham with 3 acres of land, formerly arable, in Medacres this side of Langeford, and 9^{d} for the grass of three headlands and half an acre lying in a certain furlong called Burygate which John Sellar formerly held. And from Shortdolemead, nothing in money this year because in the hand of the lord And from the meadow of the Prioress of Merkyate nothing in money because it is left for the lord's stock this year, and 6^{s} 8^{d} from 2 hams of meadow in Wendlebury Field sold to Philip Webb this year. And le Slade against Gravenhill, nothing in money because left this year for the lord's stock.

Perquisites of the Court.

And 6^{s} 8^{d} received of John Smyth, a native of the Prior, for a certain fine to have entry on a messuage with a virgate of land formerly Henry King's, late demised to Henry Draper by indenture, and 3^{d} issues of a Court held at Burcester on the feast of St Nicholas, Bishop, this year.

Tithes and Procurations.

In tithe of the lord King nothing this year, and in payment for procurations of Convocation of the Clergy held at London before Christmas this year 9^{d}, and in payment of procurations of the lord Pope 7^{s} 2^{d}, and in payment to the Archdeacon of Oxford for procuration of the parish Church of Burcester 7^{s} $7^{d}\frac{3}{4}$, and in payment to the same for the Synod at Easter 2^{s}, and in payment to the same for the Synod at Michaelmas this year 12^{d}.

Debts paid.

And in payment to John Buntyng, citizen and apothecary at Oxford, for sundries bought of the same 8^{s} 1^{d}. And in payment for eels and other fish lately bought at Dadyngton by John Wulfe 2^{s} 4^{d}.

Payments and Allowances.

The same ask for allowance to the Lord Lestrange for a furlong lying beyond the Priory Mill gate 8^{s} 4^{d} per annum . . . and for allowance to the farmer of Clifden for repair of houses and enclosures of the aforesaid farm this year 66^{s} 8^{d} &c. And for allowance to William Newman our rent collector of Curtlington for his work this year 4^{s}, and for allowance to the same for fines that he could not levy this year 6^{d} . . . And in allowance to the same for digging of stone at the Prior's quarry there with repair of tools 58^{s} 8^{d}.

Expenses of ploughs and carts.

And for 2 pair of wheels bought at Bemount as appears by bill this year 18^{s}, and in charges of carriage from thence with expenses of Richard Dymby meeting the same 23^{d}, and for a pair of wheels called "schozears" bought there 7^{s} 2^{d}. And for 6 iron "strakys" 5^{s}, and for . . . of carts, "gropys" and other iron articles bought at Oxford from John Mylton ironmonger 12^{d} . . . paid for 'fryttyng'[1] 5 wheels 7^{d} and for

[1] Fitting or fastening the felloes of a wheel.

an axle of a cart 1^{d} and for 5 rods of waddewole[1] bought for horse collars 2^{s} 1^{d} and for 3 collars with 3 halters bought at Sterisbrugge[2] 5^{s} 10^{d}½ and for a whip bought there 2^{d} &c.

Necessary provisions.

And for one great candle bought at the feast of St Kalixtus, Pope this year 2^{d}, and for parchment bought at St Frideswide's fair 6^{d}, and for paper bought at the same time there 4^{d}, and for a box chair bought at London on the feast of S. Thomas Apostle 9^{s}, and in payments to the sub-prior for copperas and galls bought for making ink at the same time 2^{d}, and for 2 lbs. candles bought for the Prior's lantern at Christmas this year 12^{d}, and for 8 lbs. of wax bought at Oxford the same year to make 2 torches against Christmas for the Prior's hall 3^{s}, and for mending an oven of the bakehouse 1½^{d}, and buttercloth bought for the bakehouse &c. 10^{d}, and for 2 horse girths with other things bought at the same time for the Prior's stable 6^{d}, and for soap bought for washing the Prior's hall 1^{d}, and for 19 ells of linen bought for making cloths for the refectory 5^{s}, and for cloth bought for the bakehouse 3^{s} 6^{d}, and for 8 snodes of packthread bought for making a net for snaring rabbits 6^{d} . . . and for 1 lb. of birdlime 3^{d}, and for a "heresyde" bought for the bakehouse 10^{d}, and for two hand baskets 7^{d}, and for 4 mats 13^{d}.

Provision for the Guesthouse.

For white bread bought at sundry times for the Prior and guests 3^{s} 10^{d}, and for beer, to wit, 132½ gallons bought of John Spinan, Alice Bedale and other brewers 4^{s} 10^{d}, and for 32 gallons of red wine bought of Richard Brasyer of Burcester at 8^{d} a gallon 21^{s} 4^{d}, and for 3 gallons 3 quarts of sweet wine bought of the same at 16^{d} a gallon 5^{s}, and for canvas bought at London by Richard Dymby before the feast of St Osith Virgin for making sheets 3^{s} &c.

[1] Waddewole = wadding. [2] Stourbridge fair.

Expenses of buildings.

To William Hykkedon, working for 4 days making an entrance from the parlour to the Prior's hall 16^{d}. And for keys bought of John Bette for the same door 12^{d}, and for hinges 8^{d}. And to John Coventry with two servants tiling the room called Clykchamber towards the court for 4 days $3^{s}\ 4^{d}$, and for 2 ironworkers working for 10 days covering with iron the slabs of elm for making the doors and windows $6^{s}\ 8^{d}$. And for wainscote bought at Steresbrugge $2^{s}\ 3^{d}$.

Expenses of the Dormitory.

To William Skerne and his fellows hired to dig stones for walls at the quarry beyond Crokkewell $23^{s}\ 4^{d}$, and to divers men hired to break stones in the Priory for making mortar 14^{d} &c. and to John Chepyn for making and cutting 18 corbelstones to place on the aforesaid wall $5^{s}\ 4^{d}$. And to John Coventry of Banbury, tiler, for roofing the aforesaid house $4^{li}\ 1^{d}$, and for iron standards weighing 28^{lbs} with two ventilators, to wit, vanes of tin bought of the smith at Cherlton to place upon either end of the aforesaid dormitory $5^{s}\ 2^{d}$, and to divers men hired to take down and carry away the old timber material and stones 10^{d}.

Expenses of the Kitchen.

For 20 fowls bought by the cook at the feast of St Kalixtus 20^{d}, and for a quarter of beef bought in Burcester market on the feast of St Thomas Apostle for salting 16^{d}, and for 1 cade of red herrings bought of Harmand Banbury 8^{d}. And for pork bought for the clerks of the lord Archbishop sitting at an inquiry at Burcester the Wednesday next before the feast of the Conversion of St Paul 19^{d}, and for 1 frayle of figs $3^{s}\ 4^{d}$, and for 12 lbs. of sparrows' eggs 13^{d}, and for 3 couple of green fish with a lyng 3 congers and a couple of hake $9^{s}\ 7^{d}$, and for a great chopper called a fleshaxe 15^{d}, &c. and for a saltstone bought for the dovecote $2\frac{1}{2}^{d}$.

Expenses of the Sheepfold.

For wages of John Colyns, shepherd at Coockwell and the reeve there and at Wrechwyke this year 20^{s}, and for 2 rods of russet cloth bought and given to the same 2^{s} 2^{d}. And for 12 hurdles for sheepfolds bought of Nicholas Aleyn 18^{d}, and for making thirty hurdles at Midlington Park 19^{d}.

Purchases of grain.

For 4 quarters of corn bought at Stratton from Nicholas Aleyn for making malt 16^{s}.

Purchase of Stock.

For a bay horse bought of William Salt of Burcester at Christmas for the Prior's stable 26^{s} 8^{d}, and for two foals bought of John Arysbrook at Easter 9^{s}, and for 324^{lbs} of Spanish iron bought at Steresbrugge fair with carriage of the same 18^{s} 5^{d}.

Weeding, mowing and carting of hay.

For payments to divers men and women the 1st July hired for weeding as appears by tally against the hayward this year 14^{s} 10^{d} &c.

Autumn Expenses.

For 30 pair of autumn gloves bought for divers servants and other labourers this year 4^{s} &c. And for hiring Thomas Hamond to prepare for cartage 29 selions of barley 10 of which stretch to Laversfield Brook, and 19 lie in the middle furlong to the white cross at Buckenhull 8^{d}. And as a gift to William Skynner, the bakehouse boy, of the courtesy of the mowers for 10 days 12^{d} &c.

Threshing and winnowing.

To John Leseby for threshing 45 quarters of corn as appears by tally this year, taking for each quarter 3$\frac{1}{2}^{d}$—9^{s} 4$\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ and for winnowers hired to winnow all kinds of grain threshed within the Priory this year 10^{s} &c.

The Convent chamber.

In payments to the Prior and Convent for their habits at the terms of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary and St Michael the Archangel this year 10^{li} 13^{s} 4^{d}. And in payments to Brothers Robert Lawton and William Meriton for their expenses at Higham Ferrers at the feast of St Michael 7^{s}.

Purchase of livery cloth.

For blue cloth bought for the esquires and grooms of the Prior from John Bandye of G^{t} Tew, clothier, at Christmas 7^{li} 15^{s} 2^{d}.

Fees with wages of servants.

For fee of John Langston, steward, holding the court per annum 26^{s} 8^{d}. For fee of William Saleman, the Prior's attorney in London, per annum 6^{s} 8^{d} &c. And for wages of John Baldwyn, the Prior's groom of the chamber, this year 13^{s} 4^{d}. And for wages of William Puffe, baker, per annum 15^{s} And for wages of William Skynner, his assistant, 10^{s}, and for wages of his wife drying the malt this year 10^{s}. And for wages of William Gulde, barber this year 6^{s} and for wages of Catherine Colyns making towels for the kitchen this year 20^{d}, and for wages of the laundress per annum 6^{s} &c.

Wages of farm servants.

For wages of Robert Jamys, bailiff of the upper grange, per annum 13^{s} 4^{d}, and for wages of Robert Clerk, hayward this year . . . And for wages of William Lethnarde, holder of the plough this year 15^{s}, and for wages of William Evlyche, driver of the plough this year 14^{s} 8^{d} &c.

Wages of labourers.

For John Leseby, making fences at the sheepfolds of Wrechwyk and Crockwell 13^{d} &c. and to John Soler, cutting 21 cartloads of underwood at Bernwood 3^{s} 2^{d} &c. and to a certain stranger hired to drive the plough and harrow for 12 days 12^{d} &c.

Foreign expenses.

For expenses of John Gyles at Oxford with 2 chairs to be mended there, and for expenses of Brother William Chesterton at Letcombe on the feast of St Leonard, Abbot for rent in arrears this year 12^{d}. And in suits of Thomas Takkele on account of the return of 2 writs at Oxford 4^{d}. And to Richard Dymby, riding to London the second week of Advent for making his son a canon with 2 horses for 3 days 2^{s}. And in payment to the said Thomas Takkele for taking a certain boy, late servant of John Grene to Oxford Castle in Christmas week, because he agreed to serve the Prior and did not fulfil his engagement 20^{d}, and in payment to the gaoler there for receiving the said servant into the castle as he had no warrant 3^{s} 4^{d}. And for hurdles bought for Clifton bridge 7^{d}, and for timber bought at Curtlington with the carriage of the same for a pillory at Dadyngton to be newly made 2^{s} &c. And in payment to John Spinan for making 4 quarters of malt at Easter 16^{d}. And for expenses of Richard Boteler at Trentham on the feast of St John before the Latin gate with letters of visitation of the Canons regular to be signed 4^{d} &c. And for expenses of the Prior at the general chapter held at Leicester 48^{s} 2^{d}. And in payment for beds of the servants of the Archdeacons of Oxford and Buckingham lodging the night in the house of John Fletcher 2^{d}. And in all kinds of expenses of Brother Richard Albon at Steresbrugg fair with 3 horses going and coming to purchase divers victuals for 5 days 12^{s} 6^{d}.

Expenses incurred in a suit against the Parishioners of Stratton for burials.

For a gift to Master John Garton, proctor for the Prior against the same 3^{s} 4^{d}. And in expenses of John Baldwyn at London, speaking with Master William Hooper to have counsel in the said matter at the feast of St Osith Virgin this year 20^{d}, and in expenses of the Prior there for 7 days to

prosecute the same matter 40^{s} 8^{d}. And in expenses of John Saleman carrying hares, capons and other victuals to the Prior there 12^{d}. And in gifts to the Rector of Wycheford's servant bringing good news of the said matter on St Theodore's day 20^{d}. And in gifts to Thomas Bekyngham on St Katherine's day, attorney for the Prior before the Bishop of Worcester in the said matter. . . . And in expenses of the Rector of Wycheford at London for 4 days with 2 horses before the said Bishop treating of the said matter 7^{s} 8^{d}. And to Richard Boteler riding to London on the feast of St Mary Magdalen to inquire concerning the coming of the said Bishop to Burcester for the same matter 20^{d}, and in gifts to four servants of Thomas Bekyngham being before the said Bishop to hear judgment given by the said Bishop on the morrow of St Anne, mother of Mary, concerning 2 bodies in Stratton chapel which were to be exhumed and brought to Burcester, and concerning other injuries done against the Prior and his convent by the tenants there to be corrected 6^{s} 8^{d}, and for sundry victuals &c 27^{s} 5^{d}, and in presents to the aforesaid Bishop when pronouncing the aforesaid judgment 6^{li} 13^{s} 4^{d}, and in presents to the clerks and gentlemen at that time 46^{s} 8^{d}.

Gifts of the Prior.

In gifts to a Carmelite brother preaching at Burcester on the feast of St Luke Evangelist 3^{s} 4^{d}, and in gifts to the Prior's servants cleaning the fishpond at the mill, at the same feast 6^{d}, and in gifts to a player on the cithern at the same feast 8^{d}, and in gifts to a boy sent to London to be a canon at the feast of All Saints 6^{d}, and in gifts to a man of Chesterton at the same feast for bringing back a deer which had escaped from the Priory, and in gifts to a minstrel of Lord Lestrange at the same feast 12^{d}, and in gifts to a groom of the forest bringing venison to the Priory on the morrow of the said feast 12^{d}, and in gifts to divers players at football on the feast of St Katherine virgin and martyr 4^{d}, and for 8

woodcocks bought and given to the Lady Lestrange on the octave of the Epiphany, and in gifts to the shepherd of Crockwell on St Valentine's day 2^{d}. And in gifts to the Nuncio of the lord Bishop of Lincoln on the day of SS. Perpetua and Felicia 20^{d}, and for a pair of gloves bought and given to Master Thomas Beckyngham 20^{d}, and for 12 pairs of gloves bought and given to divers men of the Bishop of Worcester 5^{s}, and in gifts for distribution to the poor on Maunday Thursday this year 3^{s} 6^{d}, and in gifts to two shepherds 2^{d}. And in gifts to Lord Talbot's minstrel on the feast of St Ethelburg virgin 12^{d}, and in gifts to John Donesmore and other tenants and parishioners of . . . for mending the bell there 6^{s} 8^{d}, and in gifts to the grooms of the forest carrying venison to the Prior on the feast of the dedication of the church this year 5^{s}, and for two pairs of best buskins given to the same 20^{d}, and in gifts to divers poor people at different times -^{s} 4^{d}. Total 53^{s} 7^{d}.

Sum total of all the expenses aforesaid 218^{li} 9^{s} 2$\frac{3}{4}^{d}$ And so remaining 55^{li} 1^{s} 0$\frac{3}{4}^{d}$.

An account delivered to the Prior and Canons of Bicester by Henry the Deye and Joan his wife of the profits and expenses of the dairy in their Manor of Wrechwyke (8–9 Hen. IV.).

Sale of Cows.

First they account for 7^{s} received for a cow sold to John Grene butcher of Bicester this year 7^{s}.

Sale of Calves.

For 20^{d} received for the calf of the said cow sold to the said John Grene. And for 12^{d} received for a weak calf of a heifer sold to said John. And for 10^{s} 8^{d} received for 5 this year's calves sold to the butcher of Langton.

Sum 13^{s} 4^{d}.

Sale of Hides.

Nothing this year.

Agistment.

For 3^{s} 4^{d} received for the pasturage of divers animals within the aforesaid close and without. Sum 3^{s} 4^{d}.

Sale of Cheese.

For 17^{s} 6½^{d} received for cheese and butter as appears by invoice remaining against Brother Richard Albon, Canon, this year.

Sale of fuel.

For 2^{s} 2^{d} received for thorns and brambles remaining after making and mending the hedges of the close, sold to the men of Langton this year. And for 3^{d} received for one cartload of fuel sold to John Grene. Sum 2^{s} 5^{d}.

Sum total of receipts abovesaid £4. 13. 7½.

Allowances.

Of which there is allowed to the aforesaid Henry and Joan for their yearly wage paid at four terms of the year 13^{s} 4^{d}. And allowed for 5½ bushels of salt bought this year 3^{s} 4½^{d}. And by an exchange made for a cow remaining in stock for a young ox of John atte Mill 12^{d} . . . For a cow and its calf bought of John Okle butcher of Stratton 7^{s} 6^{d}. For 2 bushels of corn 10^{d}. For the carriage of straw by William Holt junior from Stratton Rectory 11^{d}. For the making and mending of hedges to divers men of Langton 4^{s} 2^{d}. For victuals of the same 2^{s}. For the carriage of white straw from Stratton Rectory 11^{d}. And for William Throcchere, thatching for 5 days 10^{d}. And for repair of the Cowhouse 11^{d}.

Sum 38^{s} 2½.

Costs of a new plough and instruments of husbandry For 2 oxen bought of John Clerk of Langton 26^{s} 8^{d}. And for another ox bought of John Ive of Bicester 11^{s} 6^{d} nothing here, because it appears in the account of the bursar of the Priory. And for two cows bought at Banbury with their young 15^{s} 2^{d}. For a plough lately bought of Hugh Spinan 10^{d}. For the making of another plough by John Benhull 4½^{d}. For

a ploughshare and coulter and a ploughshoe bought 23^{d}. And for another ploughshare this year nothing, because it is forthcoming from the plough work of the ploughman who ploughed Symon Adam's land. And they are allowed for payments to divers men for drawing and driving the plough with their victuals and expenses this year $17^{s}\ 9\frac{1}{2}$. And for 11 bushels of corn for sowing, $5^{s}\ 10\frac{1}{2}^{d}$. And a quarter of peas for sowing $2^{s}\ 8^{d}$, received from Stratton Rectory, as appears by the roll of account of Nicholas Alleyn bailiff there this year. And for a quarter of barley this year nothing because received from Stratton Rectory as appears by the same account. And they are allowed for 18 bushels of grass seed bought for sowing $4^{s}\ 6^{d}$. And for hay bought for the cows and oxen 6^{s}. And for three new hurdles bought for folding sheep 18^{d}. And for a seedcod 3^{d}. And for a cart-saddle, collar and a pair of reins 14^{d}. And for another collar of white leather 4^{d}. And for making the drawgear by Walter the carpenter of Langeton 3^{d}. And for two other collars 2^{d}. And for two hempen halters with a whipcord 3^{d}. And for iron bought with three horseshoes 7^{d}. And for wages of William Throcchere mowing the Breche meadow 16^{d}. And for a dungcart bought of Simon Adam with its appurtenances 14^{d}. And for a cart made by Richard Schereman 9^{d}. And for a pair of wheels made by John Helmenden $3^{s}\ 2^{d}$, and for Richard Plumber forking the haycart for 12 days 3^{s} &c. &c. Sum total $109^{s}\ 2\frac{1}{2}^{d}$.

THE BAILIFF'S ACCOUNT OF CUXHAM, OXON, RE PURCHASE OF MILLSTONES

Mr. Thorold Rogers has transcribed the following details from the bailiff's Account of Cuxham, Oxon, for the year 1330–1 as to expenses incurred on a journey to and from London for purchase of millstones:—

Five stones from foreign parts bought in London at $3^{li}\ 3^{s}\ 4^{d}$ each: the luck or bargain penny (Argentum dei) 1^{d},

5 gallons of wine for drinks 2^s 1^d, loading in a ship at London 5^s; wharfage $7\frac{1}{2}^d$, murage 10^d, carriage London to Henley 11^s 2^d; murage at Mayden-church 10^d; journey of bailiff, servant and horse to and from London 3^s $0\frac{1}{4}^d$, the journey taking three days. Expenses on another occasion for four days in seeing to the carriage of the stones 4^s. Expenses of three men for three days at Henley boring the stones, and the expenses of two carters carrying two stones to Cuxham 3^s 9^d, iron bought $2\frac{1}{2}^d$, steel bought for biles to bore the stones 9^d: smith for making the biles and sharpening them again and again 2^s. Two hoops bought for carrying two stones to Oxford 6^d.

The comments on the above account give such a graphic picture of mediæval life and manners that we cannot forbear quoting the passage *in extenso*:—

The bailiff seems not only to have paid the luck penny, but to have provided the beverage during the consumption of which the bargain was negotiated and completed. The purchase and the further business of treating for the carriage involved two separate journeys; and the transit is marked by the claim of a toll from the City of London and the town of Maidenhead. At Henley, labourers are hired to bore the stones; as usual, iron and steel are bought and served out to the smith, and with the latter article biles (that is plainly boring tools) are framed on the spot, the smith being retained to continually sharpen the tools. The manor wagon takes home three of the stones and two are forwarded to Oxford for use at the Holywell or King's Mill. Robert Oldman the Cuxham bailiff was like his father, who had held the office for many years, a serf of the manor. He must have journeyed on that road to London which passes through Worth, Wycombe, and Uxbridge. The lower route through Dorchester, Nettlebed, and Henley had not been made, or if made was not frequented, if we may argue from á map of England now

preserved in the Bodleian Library and certainly drawn at about the middle of the fourteenth century, which gives roads and distances. This upper route, lying for a considerable portion of its course on high land, the north slope of which is the Vale of Aylesbury, is one of the most picturesque highways in the southern part of England. At dawn in the midsummer of 1331 (for the charges incurred are written at the foot of the roll) bailiff, servant, and horse start on their expedition and achieve the distance, more than forty miles, in the course of the day through the beechwoods of Buckinghamshire and the rich pastures of Middlesex. Arrived in London, they take up their lodgings at one of the numerous hotels in the city and, according to the fashion of the time, cater for the need of themselves and their horse. Early next day Oldman sets about the serious business on which he had come, and finds the merchant at the wharf which lay below the southern City wall. Having chosen the stones which suit the two mills, his own and that at Oxford, he adjourns to his inn, or to some tavern near, in order to discuss the terms of his bargain. We may be certain that the chaffering was long and serious and that, in Oldman's opinion at least, the time and money were not idly spent, when he aids his bargaining by the liberal order of 5 galls. of Gascony. It is not every day that the merchant finds a customer whose demands are so large or who has set his heart on the best articles which can be found in his "selda" or warehouse. These deep potations are at last ended by the merchant abating something of his morning price, the bargain is struck, the luck penny is delivered, and there are witnesses to the transaction. After so unaccustomed a debauch the bailiff returns next morning by the same route to his farm and his duties. But he must journey again to London in order to negotiate the terms at which his goods shall be carried and to pay for the millstones. On this occasion more time is consumed; possibly for such a vessel as would be able to carry these

heavy articles, possibly in another keen bargaining about the amount to be paid for the service. No doubt other potations were deemed necessary for the completion of these arrangements; but in dealing with sailors and wharfingers less costly beverages sufficed and no special note was made of the consumption. This contract, however, is settled at last, and the stones are laid on board, payment being made for wharfage. Now comes the toll for the city wall, and, free at last, the vessel works its way with the tide up the great river, whose waters were as yet undefiled, through the rich salmon fisheries of Westchene, between the winding banks of the royal forest, and beneath the hill not yet crowned with the great palace which the young King would hereafter delight to build. Then on to Maidenhead, where a further murage was to be paid, due probably as the former was to the City of London, whose jurisdiction over the Thames extended at least thus far.

And then they traversed the fairest part of the river scenery, the horseshoe, namely, which lies between the wooded hills of Maidenhead, Wycombe, and Marlow, till the boat rested at Henley, then the highest point to which the navigation of the Thames was ordinarily possible. The bailiff is present to receive his goods, and soon gets ready the service, which he finds it will be more convenient to employ on the spot by purchasing iron and steel, by hiring a smith to fashion his steel into picks or awls, and by engaging the services of three men for three days in the labour of boring the stones, a labour of no trifling character, as the smith is perpetually occupied in sharpening his tools.

CHAPTER VIII

EXTENTS AND CUSTUMALS

NONNESPLACE was a small manorial estate in Bicester which belonged to the Benedictine Priory of Markyate (Market Street), in Caddington parish, county of Bedford. The following extent was taken in the eighteenth year of Edward II. Two extracts from custumals of manors belonging to Glastonbury (thirteenth century), Bureton and Longbridge, and an early extent *temp.* Henry III. of the manor of Warkworth, Northumberland, follow.

EXTENT OF THE MANOR OF NONNESPLACE, IN BICESTER, BELONGING TO THE NUNNERY OF MARKET GATE, 18 EDWARD II.

Free tenants of inheritance.

John le Veche and Agnes his wife hold a messuage and curtilage[1] which is between the land sometime Emma Bartlett's and John Baker's land. They hold also an acre of land whereof half an acre lies under Buchomway between Hugh Elyot's land and William Hamond's land, and the other half acre lies in the land called Grasscroftfurlong and extends towards Chesterton between Walter Langley's land and William Hamond's land, and they pay for the same one half-

[1] Courtyard.

penny at Easter which said messuage curtilage and land the said John and Agnes have of the demise of Nicholas le Rede and Annora his wife by their deed, paying for the same to the chief lord ½d as aforesaid. And they hold by form of the statute as in the Court held at Bicester the Tuesday next after the feast of St Dyonysius the 9th year of King Edward son of King Edward, is fully contained on which day the said John did fealty. The said John holds a messuage and half a virgate of land by homage and fealty which Hugh atte Ford the chaplain formerly held and which the said Hugh had of the gift of Margery atte Ford his mother which land she held of the lord in chief paying per annum 2^s^ 6^d^ at four terms of the year, to wit, at the feasts of St Michael, the Nativity of our Lord, the Annunciation of blessed Mary and the Nativity of St John Baptist by equal portions . . .

John, son of Thomas Abbot, holds by a certain deed indented made to Thomas Abbot and the heirs of his body begotten, by Agnes sometime Prioress, a messuage with curtilage where he dwells which is situated between the messuage which Robert le Webbe sometime held and the capital messuage which Henry Smith sometime held and pays per annum 12^d^ and does suit of court. . . .

William son of John Squier holds a messuage with curtilage to him and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, by a certain deed indented made in the name of Agnes, Prioress of Markyate and her convent which messuage with curtilage was formerly Hugh Cook's of Bicester, and pays for the same per annum at the terms aforesaid 2^s^ and does suit of court.

Demesne lands demised for term of life.

Simon Germeyn and Matilda his wife hold by deed indented for term of their lives, 16 acres of land of which 1 acre lies in Southfield upon Grasscroftfurlong, and 2 acres upon Littlemorefurlong, and 1 acre in the Furlong towards Bigenhull, and 2½ acres upon Hodesfurlong, and ½ an acre

which is called Broadhalfacre in Tachmillway and 1 acre upon Merefurlong nearer Bicester, and 3 acres in Northfield upon Brookfurlong, and 2 acres upon Waterfurlong, and 1 acre in Lallesden, and 2 acres in le Breche, and pay for the same per ann. at the terms aforesaid 10^s. . . .

Rents and services of customary tenants.

Robert son of Nicholas Germeyn holds a messuage and half a virgate of land in bondage at the will of the lady, and owes one ploughing in winter and one hoeing, and owes one wedbedrip at the will of the lady, and he shall have one meal, and owes one mowing for half a day, and a whole virgate of the same tenure, he shall have free mowing in the evenings, as much as a mower can lift with his scythe and carry home by himself, and the mower shall have his breakfast of the lady Prioress and the same Robert and all the other customary tenants of the lady shall have a free mowing in the meadow called Gilberdesham without dinner, and they owe to turn and lift the hay and make it into cocks and each one ought to carry four cartloads of hay to the court of the Prioress, and he shall have his breakfast from the lady Prioress and for a virgate of land of the same holding he shall do three boon days in autumn, to wit, a precary without dinner with three men, and one boon day without dinner with one man, and if he be a binder at the said precaries he shall have a sheaf of seed of the last hay bound, and he owes also a boon day at the will of the lady with his whole family except his wife, with dinner from the lady and when a binder has his dinner he shall not have a sheep and he ought to carry four carts of hay in autumn to the manor house of the lady, and he shall have his breakfast and he ought to be talliaged at the feast of St Michael at the will of the lady Prioress, and he ought not to sell a male horse or ox of his own, nor put his son to learning, nor marry his daughter without the licence and will of the Prioress;

and if the Prioress be present the said Robert shall find and carry the victuals and drink of the Prioress for the time she shall make a stay in the country at her will, and shall pay also per annum at the four accustomed terms 2^s 6^d and suit of court.

William Hamond holds a messuage and half a virgate of land by the same service and pays per annum 2^s 6^d.

William Cavel holds a messuage and half a virgate of land in form aforesaid and pays per annum 2^s 6^d. [Other tenants enumerated holding by the same services and rent.]

Alice who was the wife of Richard le Grey cottager and native of the lady holds a messuage, two acres of land and half an acre of meadow and does one hoeing and one wedbedrip, and one tossing of the hay and finds one man to make the haycocks, as the aforesaid Robert son of Nicholas, and shall work three boon days in autumn without food and pays per ann. 12^d.

Nicholas Attewell holds a messuage with a croft and two acres of land and half an acre of meadow by the same services as the aforesaid Alice, and pays per annum 18^d and owes suit of court.

GLASTONBURY CUSTUMALS

The following are translations of portions of the Custumals of Glastonbury *circa* 1250, published by the Somerset Record Society :—

BURTON

These are the rents and customs owing yearly to the lord Abbot of Glastonbury from the vill of Bureton.[1]

Robert Tac holds 1 virgate of land and pays of gavol [*i.e.* money rent] yearly 4^s at four annual terms, to wit, at each term 12^d, and for a gift to the larderer at the feast of

[1] Burton, a manor within the parish of Marnhull.

St Martin 2^{s}, and a cock and hen for cherset on St Martin's day. And he owes to be at the lord's bedrip for 2 days, to wit, at the winter bedrip with as many oxen as he has and with his plough and horse or mare if he have one, and the lord shall find him in food, to wit, one day in bread, meat, pottage and beer in sufficient and good quality and the next day in bread, cheese, pottage and beer. And he owes also to be at the lord's bedrip in Lent with his plough and horse if he have one, and with as many oxen as he has for one day. And he ought to have from the lord for each plough 1^{d} and for each harrow 1 farthing. And he owes to be at the lord's bedrip in summer, to wit, to work at the fallow one day with his plough if he have one, and with as many oxen as he has, and the lord shall find him in bread and cheese. And he owes to come one day with one man to weed the lord's corn, and shall find him in bread and cheese once in the day, and after that day he shall come every day after Pentecost with one man until the lord's corn shall be weeded except feast days and Saturdays, until the lord's field shall be reaped. And he shall weed daily till terce, and shall have nothing. And he owes to come with one reaping hook to reap the seven meadows of the lord of which three meadows are at Burton and four meadows at Niweton. And he and his fellows shall have half a measure of corn and a ram or 12^{d} at the will of the lord and 1 cheese of the best cheeses that are made at the lord's hall, so that it do not exceed the price of 5^{d}. And he owes to toss the said meadows with his fellows, and they have nothing. And if he rides to Niweton on his beast to mow the said meadows, he shall give his beast while he is mowing there of the grass which he mows for his fodder, and he owes to find one man and the third part of a wain to carry the lord's hay and corn as long as necessary both at Niweton and at Burton and each wain should have from the lord's wood one trunk which is called wenbote. And these trunks they ought to have when they

begin to mow, and when they carry the hay they shall have nothing. Also he owes to work every day from the feast of St Peter ad Vincula to the feast of St Michael, excepting feast days and Saturdays And when he reaps he owes to reap 1 acre and he shall have nothing. And he owes to reap a bedrip at Burton twice, to wit 2 acres of corn one day, and another day 2 acres of oats. And when he collects brush-wood (coopertionem) he owes to collect ten heaps, and in each heap, ten armfuls, to wit, in the first week after autumn and in the second week nine heaps and in the third week eight heaps, since at each solemn feast the need of it decreases until at feast of St Michael, they collect but one heap. And when he threshes he owes to thresh a sixth part of one measure and to winnow the same and to have nothing. And when he collects fencewood, he owes to collect two bundles of thorns and carry them to the court but not to make the fence, or one bundle of thorns and one bundle of rods, and to make the fence. And he owes to thresh 1 measure of corn at Mow-thrash (mughythress) and to have the straw. And he shall have such measure which he may sell at Sherburn or St Edward's [Shaftesbury] less 2^{d}, or he can drink a scot-ale of the lord for $\frac{1}{2}^{d}$. Also if the lord's court shall be injured by wind or tempest he shall help with the other neighbours to put the lord's buildings in good repair. And every year he owes with his neighbours to separate the ox-shed [*i.e.* to weed out the weakly stock] of the lord if there is need. And he owes for the whole year to carry the lord's corn with his beast, as well from Niweton as Burton to Glastonbury or elsewhere at the lord's will. And he should have when he carries to Glastonbury, to wit, for each horse 1 loaf, and if he carries the lord's corn to market to be sold, for each horse he should have a quarter. Also for every cart when they carry the corn in autumn he shall have daily 3 sheaves and the man who is in the grange to stack the lord's corn from the carts 3 sheaves a day, to wit, from the last cart. Also he owes with

his other neighbours to cut down a trunk once a year and to help place it on the cart, or prepare it for firewood against the lord's coming. And he ought, he and another holder of a yardland, to have a log at Christmas from the lord's wood which is called woodtale (wdetale), and the lord to find him in food on Christmas Day, to wit, in bread, cheese, pottage and two dishes of meat. And he shall take with him a plate, mug and napkin if he wishes to eat off a cloth, and he shall bring a faggot of brushwood to cook his food, unless he would have it raw. And if he have a young ox calved, he can sell it before he shall have yoked it, but after he has yoked it, he cannot without licence of the lord's bailiffs. And if he have a male foal foaled, he can sell him without licence whilst he is being suckled, but after he is weaned not at all. And if he have porkers he can sell them at will before the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin [8th Sept.], but after that day not at all, unless he gives pannage to the lord, nor can he marry his daughter to any except upon the lord's land without licence, but upon the lord's land well. Also he owes to harrow the lord's land in winter daily, until he can use the lord's ploughs and in Lent similarly to harrow the oats. And the lord ought to have a draught beast to carry the seed and to harrow his land after it has been harrowed until plough time. Also he ought to have housebote and haybote from the lord's wood. Also he owes to help with his neighbours every year to well enclose the Holpulemede. Also he owes one feast day in autumn to gather nuts in the lord's wood for the use of the lord, and he owes to enclose the lord's park at Pilton, and he owes to carry, if necessary, great timber to the lord's hall with his neighbours, if the lord wishes to build there. And the said Robert, and every tenant that keeps pigs, shall have a sow free of pannage.

Whoever is the lord's ploughman owes to plough every day of the year when the weather permits. And if he cannot plough he shall do any other work the bailiffs choose to assign

him. And owes through the whole winter, when the oxen are in stall, every day to bring the hay from the haymow and carry it into the ox-shed, and every day to assist in cleaning the ox-shed. And he ought to have timber out of the lord's wood to make the ploughs, and yokes and other necessaries pertaining thereto, all of which he shall make at his own cost. And he ought to have in each field one acre which is called Sulaker. And one ploughman has three parcels of arable land in one field, and the second ploughman three parcels in the other field, and the third of them has none. And each of them every year hath a parcel of meadow. And all the ploughmen and drivers ought to have every year in summer two bushels of corn and in autumn two sulions of corn to be divided among the ploughmen and drivers, and they ought to have every Saturday the lord's plough, to wit, one Saturday a ploughman, and the other a driver, and they ought to be quit of gavol.[1] Also the drivers should through the whole year take good care of the lord's oxen, as well in winter as in summer. And a driver ought to have every year four parcels of arable land. And should the lord's oxen in their company be deteriorated or die through their default or negligence, they are bound to make satisfaction thereof to the lord.

And the hayward of Burton is quit yearly of gavol for his service 20^{d}, and he may have in the lord's enclosed ground, as long as the animals are at grass, one ox or one cow. And he ought to have in the autumn one cartload of the lord's corn. And he ought to have two parcels of meadow and the road which is between Suthhull and Walton, to wit, the grass of that road, and one parcel of arable land under Walton by Wetermede; and should the lord's corn or meadow be deteriorated, he shall make it good by view of the lord's lawful men.

[1] They pay no rent.

LONGBRIDGE

Ralph, son of Maud, holds 1 virgate of land from the time of Thomas the Prior, and he renders of gafol per annum 5^{s} and 16^{d} of gift for the larder.[1] And he owes a ploughing which is called Garshurth at the feast of St John, 5 acres. And he should come with his plough on St John's Eve to the lord's land. And at the feast of St Martin he owes to plough 4 acres for corn, and to bring the seed for those 4 acres from the lord's hall. And the hayward owes to sow the same, and the said Ralph to harrow the same. And he owes to plough with his plough one acre for oats, when it shall be commanded him, and to bring the seed from the lord's hall as is aforesaid for the 4 acres and to harrow the said acres. And for this ploughing he shall have his animals and his horses free of herbage and pannage on the lord's hills. And when his animals cannot go upon the hills, then he shall have the right to put his sheep upon the hills in winter after the lord's sheep. And if, within the feast of St Michael and that of the Purification of Blessed Mary, he kill or sell any yearling pig he owes pannage, 1^{d}, and if it shall be half a year old, ½^{d}. And he renders always on St Martin's Day for kirkset three measures as appointed in the lord's hall, one year of corn, and the next of fine wheat if married, and if not, half kirkset. And he owes for autumn service, between St Peter's Chains and the feast of St Michael, every day except Saturday, whatever service the bailiff points out to him, to wit, if he should reap he should reap half an acre and from the same to have one sheaf by strap [per consiam, *i.e.* by a thong of a certain length wherewith the reaper bound a certain quantity of corn] as appointed of old, except the first day of reaping. And when the sheaves of half an acre are gathered up, he can glean a handful which is called "lash-anwul," and when he carries the lord's corn he ought to

[1] Where the tenants had their meat salted.

carry for the whole day, and to have 2 sheaves which are called wensewes. And if he be an outsider in the service of the lord, he ought to have his sheaf by strap, and if any of his household reap or carry they should have in the same manner, whatever work it may be. And if he reap the stubble, he should reap one cartload and bring it to the lord's hall and have one sheaf of the same stubble, and if he is reaping without a cart he should reap ten bundles (muncellos), each bundle of 10 sheaves, and every feast day he should have that service diminished by one bundle, until he come to five bundles and then he shall stand at five bundles for that service. And if any sheaf appear less than is right, it ought to be put in the mud, and the hayward should take hold of his hair above his ear, and the sheaf should be drawn through his arm, which if it can be done without the soiling of his clothes or hair it should be considered less than is right, but otherwise it shall be adjudged sufficient. And if he owes to carry rods or fencing, he should carry once only in a day, and if he goes to the copse with his own cart he shall have a companion of a similar holding, and that shall be accounted for them the service of one day. And he owes to plough at the lord's boon days one acre if he have his plough by himself, and if two or three join with him in the plough they ought not to plough more than the one acre.

And they shall have their necessaries as the others do each day. And he owes to wash and shear the lord's sheep together with the others and to have a cheese with the others made in the lord's hall the same day. And he owes to reap the lord's meadow and carry the lord's hay until it shall be all carried. And he ought with the others to have one cuillard [chilver = she lamb] 4 cheeses worth 8^{d} and 2 loaves as by custom. And he ought to carry for the lord Abbot, if so commanded, to Dichesthete or to Cranmere or to Wilton and elsewhere, within a circuit of 15 leagues and at any time by precept of the chamberlain, they shall carry to Glastonbury,

but not of right. And then the chamberlain shall find necessaries sufficient for them and their horses.

And they ought to bring the monks cloth from St Giles fair to Longbridge, or from Longbridge to Glastonbury at the charge of the chamberlain, and each ought to have his sheaf as those of the household. And if he owes to do work which is called "andwike" in the lord's hall, he shall come in the morning and do as the bailiff commands him till terce, whether digging, fencing or any other work. And if he owes to spread marl he shall bring 5 parcels per day and shall be quit, and the lord shall draw the marl on to the marlpit. And if he bring manure as far as Blankland in Rogediche he shall go fifteen times in a day, and if he bring it over the water he shall go fifteen times in two days, and if at any time he be sick, he shall be quit of all service for 15 days. And he owes to weed 2 days after dinner and the third day to do the same at request, and when he threshes he should thresh 2 bushels by measure of wheat and of oats 4 bushels and to have a pailful. And he cannot marry his daughter without the lord's licence. And he ought by right to have one of his sons in free aid[1] at Hocktide. Nor can he sell his ox or horse without the lord's licence, and the lord near. And if he die he ought to leave the lord his horse if he have one with the bridle, and, if he have not a horse, the best chattel he hath. Nor is he bound to carry the lord's wool or cheese beyond 15 leagues. The time of hanwork is between the feast of St Peter's Chains and the feast of St Michael, and beyond that, he shall not do any work except carriage when his turn comes. [List of tenants who owe similar services.]

Geoffrey Salferioc holds a cottage and renders 2^{s} per ann. and 5^{d} for a gift (to the larder). And at the will of the lord he holds a plough or keeps the pigs or sheep and is quit of all gavol per annum. And if he does not this service he must work for one term of the year and be quit of 6^{d} gavol.

[1] *i.e.* to help him.

And if he keep the sheep he shall have the milk of those which have no lambs living, of twenty nine and not more, and he shall carry the residue to the lord's hall. And he ought to have two lambs of the best and one skin and one acre which is callèd Wexsingaker, and to sow the same with his own seed if he will. And he ought to have foldage for 15 days when he watches the lord's fold, and 30 sheep free of pannage in the lord's fold. And if he have more he must pay pannage for every sheep (in excess) $\frac{1}{2}^{d}$, and he should have from Hocktide to St Peters chains, all the milk from the sheep on Sunday in common with the dairy maid and assistant. And every day his portion, and his dog another portion. And on every day of reaping, except one day, a sheaf by strap and a small parcel of land for the feed of the dog. And if he is ploughman he ought always to have throughout the year on every third Saturday the lord's plough, and between the feast of St Peter and feast of St Michael it shall be at the lord's will whether he have the plough every third Saturday, or every day of harvest a sheaf by strap. And there are small portions of lands which belong to the ploughs called Sulstiche and Goddingchestiche whereof he, if he is ploughman, ought to have a parcel as the others. And whether the said Geoffrey be ploughman or harrower he ought, together with the rest of the said tenement, to watch with the hayward on St John's Eve at the extremity of the lord's culture, and participate with the others of a lamb, and he shall have a branch from the lord's wood for fire that night. And if he makes hurdles for the fold he shall make 5 hurdles a day for 2 days, and if he make smaller hurdles he shall make 3 hurdles a day. And if he spread marl he must spread one row, and if dung two rows, and he may have a cow and a heifer free of pannage, but as to swine, he shall do as the others. And if he is a simple cottar he can have 10 sheep in the fold free of pannage. And all the cottars similarly. And he renders 4 hens for kirkset. [List of tenants with similar services.]

EXTENT OF THE MANOR OF WARKWORTH, NORTHUMBERLAND, *temp.* HENRY III.[1]

Extent of the whole manor of Werkworth.

Names of the jurors: Thomas at the Cross, Robert, clerk, Henry de Bocelesdune, Henry the fisher (piscator), Robert son of Anning, William son of Alice, Robert Scot.

And they say that there are there in demesne 3 carucates of land containing 315 acres, and that the price of each acre is 5^{d}. Sum total £6 9^{s} 7^{d}.

And there are there 15 acres of meadow, the price of each acre 18^{d}, with certain places at the head of the corn. Sum of the money 22^{s} 6^{d}.

Also of the farm of the township of Werkworth with the farm of the new town yearly 78^{s} 7½. And they ought to find from each house of the borough and new town 1 man to reap (metentem) for 2 days in autumn at the food of the lord or of the lady 5^{d} for 2 days. Sum of money of the aforesaid services 5^{s}.

Item the toll of the borough and of ale are worth per ann. 10^{s}. Also of the oven[2] 20^{s}.

The mill is worth yearly 40 marks, whereof the Prior of Tynemouth takes 3 marks yearly by charter.

The fishing is worth sometimes more, sometimes less, but this year it was worth £6 with a certain small boat which is called Cobel.

There are there 3 salt pits which yield yearly 8 quarters of salt, the price of each quarter is 16^{d}, and the sum of money is 10^{s} 8^{d}.

Also the said salt pits yield yearly for one piece of ground containing about half an acre 15^{d}.

There is one small plot where there are 2 vivaries,[3] the herbage and curtilage are worth yearly 2^{s}.

[1] Inq. p.m., C, Hen. III., File 9 (1).

[2] The tenants were bound to bake their bread at the lord's oven.

[3] Fishponds.

There is one castle for the custody of which lord Roger gave each year 20 marks and 3 robes.

There is there a small round wood which is called Sunderland which is half a league in circumference, the herbage whereof belongs to the lord.

Sum of the aforesaid town £44. 12. 11½. in value besides 40^{s} which the Prior of Tynemouth took.

ACLINTONE

There are there 21 bondmen each of whom holds 30 acres of land and each pays per ann. of farm 3^{s} 6^{d}. And shall give yearly 4 quarters of barley malt or 9^{s} at the will of the lord and gives yearly of stallage 2^{d}. And gives for the custody of the animals of the lord 3^{d} yearly, and gives at Christmas one hen or 1^{d}. And shall work each week for 3 days unless a feast happens, or shall pay for the service aforesaid yearly 5^{s} at the will of the lord. And mows in autumn for 5 days with 2 men, to wit, for 3 days at the food of the lord, and 2 days at his own food, the price of this service 6½^{d}. And moreover he shall carry to the Castle one cartload of wood from the wood of Alintone or shall pay 1^{d}.

Sum of the aforesaid rents and services in money £19. 11. 1½.

Also the aforesaid bondmen give yearly for 1 meadow which is called Rumedu 5^{s}.

Also Robert Aning holds 3 acres of land and pays yearly 1 quarter of barley malt of the old measure, or 2^{s}.

Also Roger Wambe holds 20 acres of land of the demesne by charter during his life for taking care of the park.

And the same [Roger Wambe] holds 4 acres of land for 2^{s} 6^{d} yearly for all services.

And there are there 10 farmers who hold 168 acres of land and pay yearly in money 75^{s} 11^{d}. And do yearly 40 works by one man a day, to wit, each of them does the works at the food

of the lord, and the aforesaid works are worth yearly 25^{d} besides the food. There are there 2 cottagers who hold 5 acres of land and pay yearly 2^{s} 9^{d} of farm and do works which are worth 5^{d}.

Also William the blacksmith holds 9 acres of land for making the ironwork of the ploughs of Werkworth and for shoeing horses.

Also there is there 1 park which is about 4 leagues in circumference, in which there are this day according to estimation about 7 score beasts, to wit, young bucks and does, but there are no large deer to be found there. And there are there 7 or 8 "bisce" and 1 stag of 2 or 3 years. Moreover there are there 2 small woods the herbage whereof is common pasture of the township of Alintone And they are allowed to take house-bote and hay-bote out of them by liberty of forests.

Sum of the aforesaid bondmen in money £4 10^{s} 8^{d}.

Sum of all the aforesaid township of Alintone in money £24 $21^{d}\frac{1}{2}$.

BIRLING

In the township of Birling there are 10 bondmen each of whom holds 30 acres of land and pays yearly of farm 3^{s} 6^{d} and 4 quarters of barley malt or 9^{s}, and this at the will of the lord, and does other services which are computed at 6^{s} 1^{d}. Sum of the aforesaid farm and malt and other services in money £9 5^{s} 10^{d}.

Also Henry le Messer holds one small parcel of land for $16\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ yearly.

There are there 6 cottagers each of whom gives yearly of farm 8^{d} and does other services which are worth 2^{d}.

Also William Gustard holds 1 cottage for 4^{s} yearly. Sum 6^{s} $8\frac{1}{2}$.

Sum of the aforesaid township of Birling in money £9 12. $6\frac{1}{2}$.

BUTTELESDENE

William son of Walter holds the moiety of the township of Buttelesdune and pays yearly 16^{s} and gives for keeping one horse and 1 dog 13^{s} 4^{d} yearly; and for stallage 2^{s} and he ploughs for 1 day with 2 ploughs and does 3 boon days in autumn each day with 5 men at the food of the lord, which services are worth yearly 11½^{d}.

William son of Lambert holds the other moiety of the aforesaid township and gives of farm yearly 30^{s}. And gives for keeping 1 dog and 1 horse 6^{s} 8^{d}. And does other services which are worth yearly 11½^{d}. And gives for stallage 2^{s}.

Sum of the aforesaid township of Buttelesdune in money 71^{s} 11^{d}.

TOGESDENE

The 4th part of the town is of the fee of Werkworth, and William of Togesdene holds it by charter and pays yearly 20^{s} for all. The pleas of Werkworth according to estimation are worth yearly 40^{s}. Sum 60^{s}.

Sum of the sums of the whole manor of Werkworth £84. 19. 2½. Out of which there are owing to the sacrist of the Church of Durham by charter of the Lord Robert son of Roger, 20^{s} yearly to keep 4 wax lights about the body of the Blessed Cuthbert. And the Lord Roger used to give yearly for the custody of the castle and manor £13. 6. 8. per ann., and 3 robes, and hay and oats for 2 horses. So there remains clear in the purse (bursa) of the lord £79. 6. 7½. Moreover the pannage is scarcely worth 3^{s} yearly as is aforesaid.

The Bishop of Carlisle holds the Church of Werkworth to his own use which is commonly worth £100 per ann.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX I

LISTS OF COURT ROLLS IN VARIOUS DEPOSITORIES

THERE is at the Public Record Office a large collection of Court Rolls from every county in England and Wales, including those belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster. These have been well calendared, and published in Lists and Indexes No. 6, under the direction of the Deputy-Keeper. The two following lists of those in custody of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and those from the Land Revenue Office are separate collections, having only manuscript calendars at present. To these are added lists of Rolls at the British Museum, Lambeth Palace, and the Bodleian Library.

COURT ROLLS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS

Deposited at the Public Record Office, and only open to the public by permission to be obtained from the Commissioners.

CANTERBURY ARCHBISHOPRIC

Canterbury Palace . . . . . Hen. IV–Jas. I
(Aldington, Wingham, Teynham, Westgate, Calehill, Seven Hundreds, Herne, Maidstone, Charing, Burham.)

Westgate . . . . . (With Harbledown, Cockering, Stoursete, Harwich, Rushborne, Tunford, Hackington, Staplegate.)	Ric. II–Jas. II
Wingham . . . . . (Chilton Overland, Deane, Eythorn, Womenswold, Godnestone, Rollinge, Twitham, Wenderton.)	Hen. VII–Eliz.
Reculver . . . . . (With Chelmyngton, Shittendon, Haw, Hoath, Broxgate, Belting, Strode, Thornden, Stourmouth West, Stourmouth East.)	Hen. VII–Anne
Gillingham (with Middleborough, Eastborough, Westborough, Walde).	Ed. VI, etc.
Teynham (with Walda, Okynfold, Iwade, Bumpett, Bedmangore, Lewyson).	,,
Boughton (with Waterham, Graveney, Seaton, Nash, Staple, Millsheet, Hurfeld, Wastell, Menham).	,,
Petham . . . . . (With Bere, Stoneted, Stepington, Coterey, Brodewey, Hanveld, Grandacre, Temple Waltham.)	Ed. VI, etc.
Northbourne . . . . . (With Sutton, Fynglesam, Sholdon, Assheley, Martin, Tickenhurst.)	Ed. VI, etc.
Chislet (with Westbere and Blean, Westbeches, Hatche, Ernesborow, Craft, Ore).	,,
Downbarton . . . . . (With All Saints, Sarre.)	Hen. VII–Mary

Deal Prebend . . . . . Hen. VII–Jas. II
Shelvingford
Waddon (Surrey)
Croydon (Surrey)
Lambeth (Surrey)
Beakesbourne
Sotmer
Hawkinge, *alias* Fligges Court, *alias* Flages
Combe
Pessinge
River, *alias* Craybole
Sibertswold
} Various dates

CANTERBURY CHAPTER

Adesham (Aderham) . . . . . Hen. III–Geo. II
(Gower (Gore), Mongeham, Langdon, Hawkinge (Halklynge), Staple, Godmersham, Shepway, Maidstone, Seven Hundreds, Silveston, *alias* Silston, Heronden, Harnden.)

Appledore (Apulder) . . . . . Ric. II–Geo. II
(Hathfield, Reading, Herynden, Ovynham, Myrtylham, Benequik, Warehorn.)

Barksore . . . . . Chas. II

Bocking (Bockinghall) (Essex) . . . Ric. II–Hen. V

Borley (Essex) . . . . . Ed. II

Boughton (Boyton) (Essex) . . . Ed. III–Hen. VIII

Brook . . . . . Ed. I–Geo. II

Caldecote . . . . . Ed. III–Geo. II

Canterbury . . . . . Ed. I–Hen. VI

Gt. Chart . . . . . Ed. IV & Will. III
(Shilvington, Buxford, Worting, Rodlo, Schrympynden, Reading, Swynford.)

Felborough . . . . . Ed. III & Hen. VI
(Shalmsford, Rodyntone.)

Chartham . . . . . Ed. III–Geo. II

Cliffe West (**Westcleve**) . . . . Hen. IV–1 Ed. V
(Osterland, Southwood, Cowlyng, Hethe.)

Copton . . . . . Hen. VI

Deopham (Norfolk) . . . . . Ed. II–Anne
(Wicklewood.)

Doccumbe (Devon) . . . . . Ed. II–Chas. I

Eastray . . . . . Hen. VI–Geo. II
(Worth, Crouthorn (Craythorne), Felderland, Barnsoll, Gedding.)

Eleigh Monks (**Illeye Monachorum**) (Suffolk) Ed. I–Will. III

Elverton . . . . . Jas. I

Fairfeld . . . . . Hen. IV–Geo. II
(Alvesbridge, Misleham, Floatham.)

Farleigh East . . . . . Ed. III–Hen. VI
(Lyllesdene, Chelyndenne, Badmondenne, Stokynbury.)

Felborough (Rodyngton, Shalmeford (Shamleford), Thorne (Dorne), Henshell (Hensell, Hellsell)). ,,

Field . . . . . 16 Ed. IV

Godmersham . . . . . Ed. III–Geo. II
(Persted, Challock (Chollack).)

Hadleigh (Suffolk) . . . . . Ed. I, II, & III
(Boxford.)

Halton (**Havilton**) (Bucks) . . . . Ed. I–Ric. II

Harty (**Herteye**) . . . . . Ric. II–Hen. VIII

Hendolveston (Norfolk) . . . . 6 Ric. II

Hollingbourne . . . . . Ed. I–Geo. II
(Eyhorne, Bredhurst, Challock, Holbroke.)

Horsley East (**Esthorsle**) (Surrey) . . Hen. IV–Hen. VI
(Ockham.)

Icham (**Ycham**) . . . . . Hen. III–Geo. II
(Cotman, *alias* Cottenham, Seaton, Lee (La, Le) Well.)

Lallyng (Essex) . . . . . Ed. III & Ric. II
(Daneweres, Hoo.)

Leeds (**Ledys**) . . . . . 19 Ed. IV
(Bromfield, Berghstede, Lomeherst.)

Leysdown . . . . . Ed. III–Eliz.

Loose . . . . . Hen. VI–Ric. III
(Wald, Upland, Wautsese, Folshurte, Patynden.)

Lyktappe (Kent) . . . . . 17, 18 Hen. VI

Meopham . . . . . Ric. II–Geo. II

Mersham . . . . . Ed. I–Will. III
(Querynden, Egerynden, Harlakynden.)

Merstham (**Mestam**) (Surrey) . . . Ed. I–Hen. VIII
(Cherlwood, Cheam (Chayham).)

Milton (**Middelton**) (Essex) . . . Hen. III & Ric. II

Milton Hundred (Kent) . . . . 3 Ed. III
(Key Street (Kaistrete), Bailiwick, Sittingbourne, Rodmersham, Bynne, Bapchild, Milstead, Tong, Sheppey Scap Bailivich, Warden, Ryche, Elmley, Holte, Essendone, Sedone.)

Mongeham . . . . . Ed. IV–Hen. VIII

Monketon . . . . . Hen. III–Geo. II
(Brooksend, Birchington.)

Newington (**Newton, Newenton**) (Oxford) . Hen. III–Hen. VI
(Brookhampton, Britwell, Berrick.)

Newnham (Kent) . . . . . 15, 16 Hen. VII

Norton (Kent) . . . . . 4 Ed. I–40/1 Ed. III

Orpington . . . . . Hen. VI, etc.
(Down, Northborough, Linkhill, Hayes (Hese).)

Ruckinge (**Rokyngge**) . . . . Ric. II–Ed. IV

Sandwich (**Wick Wycus**) . . . . Ed. I, etc.

Satinola Exon (Devon) . . . Hen. VI–Hen. VIII

Seasalter (Kent) . . . . . Hen. VI & Geo. II
(Upper Borough, Nether Borough.)

Slindon (Sussex) . . . . . Ric. II & Hen. IV

Slisted (Essex) . . . . . Ed. III–Ed. IV

Street (Kent) . . . . . Ed. III–Hen. VIII
(East Fleet, Minster, Yldhelgate, Werehorn, Foulsalt.)

Campanile of Christ Church (Birnesole, Geddyng).

Teynham (**Tenham**) . . . . . Ric. II, etc.
(Donewell, Bonepotte, Wald, Bedmangore, Lenedyston, Iwade, Okynfold.)

Thedacre (**Headacre**) (Sussex) . . . Hen. VIII–Ch. I

Vauxhall (Surrey) . . . . . 34 Ch. II–Geo. I
(Mitcham, Streatham, Stockwell.)

Walworth (Surrey) . . . . . Ch. I–Geo. I
(Newington, Blackman St., Kent St.)

Westerham (**Rectory**) . . . . . Ric. II & Hen. VI

Westwell (Kent) . . . . . Ed. III–Ed. IV

Worstead (Norfolk) . . . . . 35–8 Hen. VI

Wotton (Sussex) . . . . . Ed. III–Jas. I

Wye (Kent) . . . . . 2 Hen. VII

CHICHESTER CHAPTER

Amberley (Aumberle) (Sussex) . . 47Ed. III–Hen. VII
(Waltham, Ashfold, Houghton.)

Manhood (Manewood) Hundred (Sussex) . Hen. VI & Ed. IV
(Selsey, Brackelesham, Wittering East (Withring), Wittering West, Thurlode, Birdham, Sidlesham, Almondengton, Somerle.)

DURHAM BISHOPRIC

Bishop Auckland (borough) . . . 15 Ch. II

Bishop Auckland . . . . . 2 Anne
(Rogerley, Stanhope, Poinchester, Whitworth, Auckland St. Helen, Auckland St. Andrew, Middridge Grange, Shildon, Evenwood, Tofthill, Lutterington, Bolton Gerthes, Auckland West, Rackwood Hill, Chilton Great, Chilton Little, Rushyford, Coundon, Ferry Hill, Church Merrington, Woodcroft, Dryburneside, Eastgate, Boltsburne, Millhouses, Greenhead, Bradwood, Newlandside, Horsleyburne, Ferryfield House, Thimbleby Hill, Sheelesh, Shittly, Bourne, Warmwell, Bradly, Wyserley, Tottpolts Esh, Chalterley Linden, Fawleizes, Scothdale, Freerside, Redworth, Froserly, Windlestone, Hunwick, Escomb, Merrington West, Oakes, Raw Ricknell, Grange, Hett, Thickley Newbiggin, Byersgreen, Old Park Softley, Bisshopley Bellaside, Wolsingham, Grimwell Hill, Lynsack, Newton Cap, Comforth, Evenwood, Barony, Eldon, Woodham, Cowplow, Bondgate in Auckland, Westerton, Middleton, Bedburn South, Auckland borough, Newgate, Sunderland, Bridge, Helmugton.)

Bray Philbirde (Berks) . . . . . Hen. IV & V
(Craswell.)

Chester (Durham) . . . . . *temp.* Ch. II
(Darlington, Sedgefield, Houghton le Spring.)

Chester le Spring . . . . . 2 Anne
(Nettlesworth, Stella, Gibside, Ravensworth Castle, Howells, Bradley, Redbrough, Gateshead, Fieldhouse, Saltworthside, Whimhouse, Medomsley, Hamsterley, Byerside, Byermoor, Mosshouse, Pelton, Foxholes, Washington, Lyerdeane, Aleshill, Maiden-Riding, Hunstonworth, Hedley, Beamish, Faufield, Causey North, Crookbank, Causey South, Lintsgreen, Losthouse, Joyhurst, Bryanslone, Fryerside, Upper Sheele Raw, Steelclose, Causey Middle, Kiphill, Broad Myers, Plawsworth, Hole Myers, Witton, Gilbert, Falforth, Arrowclose, Onsterley, Fearneacres, Burnhope, Ryton Wood, Consett, Consett Park, Iveston, Saltley, Hall Hill, Seeley, Edmondsley, Tribley, Whitehall, Twizell, Hagg, Fawside, Kibblesworth, Woodside, Nunshouse, Birkley, Harraton, Picktree, Rickledon, Pelaw, Urpeth, Hedworth, Newton Garthes, Monkton, Boldon North, Whitburne, Suddick, Hilton, Chester, Whittell, Felling, Usworth, Little Ouston, Pocherley, Hebborne, Jarrow, Monkweirmouth, Westoe, Shields South, Whickham, Whickham low hand, Hollingside, Swallwell, Kimlesworth, Harbour House, Colbery, Montopp, Blackburne, Stebbalee, Kyst, Kyst Lawes, Barnton, Collerieghill, Manor

House, Burnhall, Barrow, Flatt, Fleets, Lanchester, Crawcrook, Bladon, Ebchester, Pedams, Oak, Darwent, Chowdon, Hamsteels, Buttsfield, Broomesteele, Knitsley, Welridge, Roughside, Rowley, Benfieldside, Penton, Muggleswick.)

Chester le Street (Durham) . . . 6 Anne

Cracke (Durham) . . . . . *temp.* Ed. IV

Darlington Ward . . . . . *temp.* Eliz.

Chester Ward.

Darlington Ward . . . . . *temp.* Ch. II (?)
(Blackwell, Houghton Middridge, Bondgate in Auckland, Escomb, Redworth, Wolsingham, Newton Cap.)

Chester Ward . . . . . 8 Anne
(Bedlington, Easington Ward, Stockton Ward with Norton, Bishop Middleham, Hartburn, Stockton, Darlington Ward.)

Durham . . . . . Eliz.–Ch. I

Hart (**Hert**) . . . . . *temp.* Ed. IV
(Throston Low (Netherthurston), Throston High (Overthurston), Nelson (Neilston).)

Houghton le Spring . . . . . Ch. II–Anne
(Burdon, Tunstall, Ryhope (Rivehepp), Herrington, Bishop Weirmouth, Newbottle, Coatham, Mundeville, Sadberge, Haughton, Whetsoe, Beamont Hill, Brafferton.)

Easington . . . . . Ch. II (?)
(With Sherburn, Thorpe, Shadforth, Shotton, Cassop.)

Stockton . . . . . Ch. II (?)
(With Carlton, Hartburn, Norton, Sedgfield, Cornforth, Bishop's Middleham.)

Escombe (with Middridge, Redworth, Heighington, Byersgreen).	
Coundon	Ch. II (?)
Wolsingham (with Stanhope, Bishopley, Lynesack, Bedburn South and North).	
Lanchester (with Roughside (Rowside) and Rowley, Benfieldside, Billingside, Burnhope and Hamsteels, Butsfield, Broomshields, Satley and Coldpikehill, Broome and Flash, Fairside and Wearlands).	
Bedlington (Northumberland) . . . (With Camboys, Stickburn East, and Stickburn West.)	Ch. II
†**Howden** (York) . . . . . (Ellerker, Walkington, Walton, Brantingham, Belby, Kilpin, Eastrington, Saltmarsh, Skelton, Riccall, Cliff, Barnby, Knedlington, Asselby (Askilby), etc.)	Ed. III–Ch. I
North Allerton (with Sessay with Hutton, Norton Conyers, Holme with Holgrave, Kilvington North, Harlsey, Wirksale Sigston, *alias* Kirkby Sigston, Rouneton West, Winton, Kapwick, Hutton Conyers, Osmotherly, Borrowby, Thorton le Street, Otterington North, Knayton with Braywith, Deighton, Sowerby, Dinsdale (Dedensale), *alias* Over Dinsdale, Girsby, Hornby Thorpe, Perrow with Little Smeaton, Birkby (Britby), Hutton Bonville (Hutton on Wiske), Lazenby, etc.)	Ed. III–Ch. I
And a number of Miscellaneous Rolls, including Forest Courts, Eliz.–Ch. I	

ELY CHAPTER

Bluntisham Stocking (Hunts) . . . Jas. I

Stapleford (Cambs)
Swaffham Prior.
Newton (Hawkeston).
Melbourne (Meldrith).
Wrathing West.
Cottenham, Pelhams in. . . . . Mary & Eliz.

Witcham (Wycham) . . . . . Ric. II&Hen. VII

HEREFORD DEANERY

Allensmore (Hereford) . . . Ed. III–Ph.&Mary

Breinton and Withington (Hereford) . . Ed. III–Anne

Woolhope (Wolvyhope) . . . . Ed. II–Eliz.
(With Buckenhill, Putley Donnington, Brockhampton.)

DEAN AND CHAPTER OF ST. PAUL'S

Wickham Bishops (Essex) . . . . Ed. III–Hen. VII

NORWICH BISHOPRIC

Dunham, Little (Norfolk) . . . . Ch. I

Gunthorpe (Norfolk) . . . . . Eliz.–Geo. I

Walsham, North . . . . . *temp.* Eliz.

PETERBOROUGH CHAPTER

Collingham South (Southbye) (Notts) . . Eliz.

Collingham North (Northbye) (Notts) . . Eliz.

Easton, Great (Leicester) . . . . Ch. I–Will.&Mary

SOUTHWELL CHAPTER

Edingley St. Giles Fee (Notts) . . . Hen. VI–Ch. I

Southwell (Notts) . . . . . Ed. III–Ch. I

WELLS CHAPTER

Bicknoller (Somerset) . . . Ed. IV–Will. & Mary

Biddisham (Somerset) . . . . Ed. IV–Ch. II

Cheddar . . . . . *temp.* Ed. IV
(Stoke, Draycot, Locking, Rowberrow, Mascales tithing, Malerbes tithing, Nether tithing, Over tithing.)

Blackford.

Axbridge.

Congresbury.

Yatton.

Chew . . . . . Ed. IV, etc.
(Sutton Militis, Norton Hawkfield, Norton Malreward, Timsbury, Knole, Stowey, Clutton, Northwick, Littleton, Dundry, Stoke Militis, Stoke Abbots, North Chew, Bishops Sutton, Stone.)

Congresbury and Yatton (Somerset) . . Ed. IV, etc.
(Wick, Claverham, Cleve, Kenn.)

Pucklechurch (Gloucester) . . . Ed. IV–Ric. II–Ch. II
(Siston, Ashton, Westerleigh, Wick.)

Wells (Somerset) . . . . . Ed. IV, etc.
(Pryddy Easton, Burcot, Horrington (Hornyngdon), Coxley.)

Wookey.

Westbury.

Curry East . . . . . Ed. III–Ch. I

Curry North . . . . . Ed. III–Ch. I
(Langport, Long, Stathe, Thurlbear, Thorne-Falcon, Lillesdon, Curryload, Westhatch, Wrantage, Knapp.)

Fennes (Somerset) . . . . . Hen. VI & VII

Canons Grange (Somerset) . . . Ed. IV–Jas. I–Ch. II

Iver (Bucks) . . . . . Ed. III, etc.

Newport (Somerset) . . . . . Various dates

Westmere.

Newton Chantry . . . . . Ed. IV–Hen. VII

Newton Plecy . . . . . Hen. VII

Wanstead Prebend . . . . . Jas. I–Ch. II

Wellington and Buckland . . . . Jas. I–Will. III
(Combe St. Nicholas, Chard, Winsham.)

Wells Almshouses . . . . . Eliz.–Jas. I

Winscombe . . . . . Ed. I–Will. III

WINCHESTER BISHOPRIC

Adderbury (Oxon) . . . . . Hen. VII & VIII

Witney (Oxon) . . . . . Hen. VII, etc.
(With Harley, Crawley, and Cambridge.)

Brightwell (Berks) (with Harwell).

Sutton Bishops (Southampton) . . . Hen. VII, etc.
(With Bramdean, West Tisted, Heathleye (Hedlyngh, Holdleighe), Bighton (Bikton), Ropley.)

Alresford Old . . . . . Hen. VII–Ch. I
(With Medstead and Wield.)

Cheriton with Beanworth. ,,

Sevington. ,,

Banwell (Somerset) . . . . . (With Worle, Harptree, Loxton and Uphill, Sandford, Weston, Hutton, Axbridge, Blagden, Churchhill, Wulfarishill, Winscombe.)	Ph.&Mary–Eliz.
Bentley (Southampton)	Hen. V–Jas. I
Binstead (Isle of Wight)	Hen. IV, etc.
Bishopstoke	Eliz., etc.
Bittern . . . . . (With Stoneham, Weston, Fawley.)	Ed. III, etc.
Waltham Woolpits (Southampton) . . (Bursledon, Curdridge, Mineingfield, Durley, Wintershill, Upham, Woodcot, Ashton Droxford, Midlington, Hill, Swanmore, Shidfield Hoo.)	Ed. III, etc.
Buddlesgate and Barton (Southampton) . (With Sparsholt, Fulflood, Littleton, Week, Sparkford, Compton, Morested, Chilcomb, Ovington, Winnall, Hursley, Michelmarsh, Nutshalling, Crawley and Hunton, Stoke Charity, Bransburg, Otterbourne.)	5 Will. & Mary
Crondall (Southampton) . . . . (With Crookham, Dippenhall, Hawley (Halle), Aldershot (Alreshute), Swanthorp, Long Sutton, Yateley.)	Ed. III–Jas. I
Bishopstone (Wilts) . . . . . (With Fallston (Falleraston), Flamston (Flambraston).)	Ed. IV–Hen. VIII
East Knoyle (with Hindon, Foushill, Milton).	
Downton, Borough.	
Downton (with Witherington (Whyteton), Church (Cruche), Wick, East Downton, Charlton, Nunton).	

Hundred Poundsford . . . . . (Bishops Hull, Staplegrove, Stapleford, Nailsborne, Elstut and Everley.)	*temp.* Hen. VIII
East Meon (**Meon**) (Southampton) . . (Aldersnap, Week, Rothercombe South, Longhurst, Oxenbourne, Ambersham, Ashford, Riplington, Forscombe, Borden, Oxshot, Froxfield, Meon, Church, Langrish, Ramsdean, Combe.)	Ric. II–Eliz.
Hambleden (Chidden, Glidden, Denmead, Leigh).	
Farnham Castle.	
Farnham Blackheath	Hen. VII–Eliz.
(Crondall, Crookham, Aldershot, Hawley, Long Sutton, Cove, Bradley, Itchell, Farnborough, Bentley.)	Southampton
(Compton, Church Runvale, Tongham, Dogflod, Bele, Frensham, Tilford, Churt, Runwick, Badshot, Wricklesham, Elstead.)	Surrey
Barton Stacey (**Fawley Hundred**) . .	Various dates
Godshill (**Budlesgate Hundred**) (Southampton) (Carisbrook (Isle of Wight).)	
Hartley Westpall.	
Manydown . . . . . (Wootton, Baughurst, Hannington.)	Will. & Mary
Havant . . . . . (Hayling, Leigh, Brockampton.)	Ed. III, etc.
Fareham Borough.	
Fareham, etc. . . . . (Catisfield, Dean, Poukesole, Crokkernshull, Bedenham, Cams, North Fareham, Brownswick.)	Ed. III–Eliz.

Overton Borough.

Overton . . . . . Hen.VIII–Eliz.
(Ash, Laverstok, Dean Bradley, Polhampton, Quidhampton, Tadley (Southington).)

Highclere . . . . . Hen.VIII–Eliz.
(Ashmansworth, Burghclere, Woodhay, Uchingswele.)

Taunton Castle (Somerset) . . Hen.VII–Ph.&Mary
(Rimpton.)

Twyford (Owlesbury, Stoke).

Marden . . . . . Hen. VIII
(Wastheath, Westpit, East Heath.)

Crawley.

Wargrave (Berks) . . . . . Hen. VIII
(Suthlake, Wydney, Waltham, Westend, Hall, Stanrige, Upton, Newnham, Culham, Crouchend, Woodrew, Berewe, Lake, Wordley, Kipshod.)

West Wycombe (Bucks) . . . . Hen. VIII
(Booker, Vynyng Major, Broke, Towridge, Vynyng Minor, Brokend, Hareryngdown, Downley.)

Ivinghoe (Bucks) . . . . . Hen. VIII
(Horton, Whitway, Aston Bishop, Sedbrook, Aston Castraffe, Nettleden, Hencombe, Ward'shurst.)

Whitchurch (Southampton) . . . Will. & Mary
(Cherlcott, Freefolk Priors, Cold Hendley.)

Wroughton (Wilts) . . . . . Will. & Mary

Witney . . . . . Hen. VII, etc.
(Crawley, Curbridge, Hailey.)

WINDSOR CHAPTER

Bassetts Bury (Bucks)	Ch. I.–1 Geo. I
Leighton Buzzard, *alias* Grovebury (Bedford)	Jas. I–Ch. I
Monkland (Hereford)	Ch. II

WORCESTER BISHOPRIC

Alvechurch (Worcester)	Eliz.–Anne
Blockley with Whistone	Eliz.
Bredon (Worcester)	Ric. II
Norton Kinsham, Hardwick, Wenland .	Hen. VII
Cleeve, Bishops (Gloucester) . .	Hen. IV–Hen. VIII
Bibury	Hen. VII
(Aldworth, Atlington Eycote.)	
Withington	Will. III
(Colsborne, Little Aston, Foxcott, Oldswell, Gt. Aston, Nolgrove, West Withington.)	
Hallow and Grimley (Worcester) . .	Comm.–Anne
Hampton (Warwick)	Hen. VI–Ed. IV
Hampton Bishops (Warwick) . . .	Hen. VI–Ed. IV
Wynburn Tree (Tredington, Darlingscote, Newbold, Longdon, Tidmington, Armscot and Crombe, Tadlynton, *alias* Talton, Daylesford, Draycot, Middle Ditchford, Over Ditchford, Blockley, Dorn, Paxford, Aston, Evenload, Blackwell and Shipston).	
Hanbury (Worcester)	Ed. III–Ed. VI
Hartlebury	Hen. VI–Anne
(Stour, Titton, Charlton, Torton, Lincomb, Gatebrugg, Vaseley.)	

Henbury (Gloucester) . . . . Hen. V–Hen. VIII
(Stoke Bishop, Itchington, Stoke Gifford, Shirehampton, Compton, Charlton, Westbury, Laurence-Weston, Stowick, Aust, Yate, Redvick.)

Vernysych (Worcester) . . . . . Hen. VI
(Kenwick, Broadwas, Knightwick, Hallow, Owleston, Otherton, Upper Wick, Wick Sapy, Witley, Holt, Wichenford.)

Radfordbridge (Worcester) . . . Hen. VI
(Rouse Leuch, Bradley and Stock, Little Inkberrow, Throckmorton, Piddle, Moore, Bishampton, Fladbury.)

Stokehill . . . . . Hen. VI
(Ripple, Boughton.)

Rex et Regina (Washbourne, Hardwick, Norton, Bredon, Westmancote, Kinsham).

Kempsey (Worcester) . . . . Eliz.–Anne

Ripple (Worcester) . . . . . Jas. I–Ch. II

Welland (Worcester) . . . . Eliz.–Ch. II

Whistones . . . . . Ric. II–Anne
(Burbourne, Northwick, Bevere, Hawford, Tapenhall Claines, Astwood.)

Wick . . . . . Ric. II–Anne
(Wichenford, Pitmaston, Holburg-Langherne, Upper Wick, Lower Wick.)

Swyneshede (Worcester) . . . . Hen. VI
(Huddyngton, Crowle, Spetchley, Aston, Churchill, Northwick, Whittington, Oddingley, Hindlip, Warndon, Hewene and Norton Kempsey.)

YORK ARCHBISHOPRIC

Ottley (Yorks) . . . . . Ch. II–Will. III

COURT ROLLS FROM THE LAND REVENUE OFFICE

Now deposited at the Public Record Office.

LAND REVENUE COURT ROLLS

Brandon (Suffolk)		5 Hen. IV–15 Hen. VI
Bridgwater Castle (Somerset)		9 Hen. IV
Erleham (Norfolk)		5 Ed. VI
Rockingham (Northants)		12–13 Ed. III
Cheltenham (Gloucester)		3–4 Ed. VI
Ledbury (Hereford)		26–39 Eliz.
Kingsland (Hereford)		1 Eliz.
Clun (Salop)		33/4 Eliz.
Marden (Hereford)		? Jas. I
. . . . .		22/3 Ch. II
Landbridgeworth (Herts)		40 Eliz.
Upwood and Gt. Raveley (Hunts)		22 Ed. III
Abbots Langley (Herts)		40 Eliz.
Hemelhempstead (Herts)		40 Eliz.
Redbourn (Herts)		40 Eliz.
Rickmanworth (Herts)		40 Eliz.
East Mersed Orsett Ramsey (Essex) Copford Harwich Dovercourt Stapleford Abbots	Estreats	40 Eliz.
Gt. Horlsey (Essex)		35 Eliz.
Gt. Leighes (Essex)		28 Ed. III–32 Hen. VI
Gt. Leighes		Hen. VII–Ch. I
Hon. of Penrith (Cumberland)		Ch. II
Penrith		21–2 Hen. VII

Appledurcombe (Isle of Wight)	Ed. I–Ed. III
Bodmin (Cornwall)	16–18 Eliz.
Temsetter Purslow and Clone (Salop)	22 Eliz.
Harrolds (Bedford)	43 Eliz.
Melford (Suffolk)	32 Hen. VIII
Castle Barnard (Durham)	7 Eliz.
Kelsemell (Herts)	Jas. I
Tring (Herts)	Ch. I–Ch. II
Cawston (Norfolk)	39–40 Eliz.
Christchurch (? Hants)	18 Jas. I
Wigmore (Hereford)	2–3 Ph. & Mary
Castle Sowerby (Cumberland)	18 Ch. II
Steventon (Berks)	33 Hen. VIII
Yaxley (? Hants, Norfolk, Suffolk)	35–6 Hen. VIII
Spalding (Lincs)	1677–1704
Epworth and Crowle (Lincs)	15–20 Jas. I
Brancaster, Wymbotesham, Woodhall in Helgey, Walsoken — Norfolk	32–5 Hen. VIII
Southerton (Lincs)	7–48 Ed. III
Bristol (Gloucester)	12/3 Eliz.
Holmer (Bucks)	1 Eliz.–6 Jas. I
Glastonbury and Brent, including Hundred Courts — Somerset	4&5 Ph. & Mary
Cattsayslm (?) (Somerset)	6–7 Eliz.
Whitgift (Yorks)	1706–12
Barking cum Needham (Suffolk)	4 Jas. I
Grasmere (Westmorland)	22 Ch. II
Fordham Bigan (?) (Cambs)	2/3 Ph. & Mary–30 Eliz.
Colnehurst (Hunts)	31 Hen. VIII
Bury (? Hunts)	4–6 Hen. V
Syberton (Northants)	7 Ed. VI
Ashton (Northants)	35 Eliz.–12 Ch. II
Chevening (Kent)	1679–97
Carnanton (Cornwall)	1788–98
Barking (Essex)	39–40 Eliz.

Eye (Suffolk)	12–13 Jas. I
Godley (half hundred) (Surrey)	19–21 Ch. I
Weston als Barking (? Lincs)	20 Ch. I
Downbarton (? Lincs)	5–15 Jas. I
Fulborne Zouches (Cambs)	1 Ed. VI
Chertsey (Surrey)	1–36 Hen. VIII, 3–4 Ed. VI, Ch. II
Egham and Chertsey	18–23 Ch. I
Honor of Clare (Suffolk)	1772–4
Bourne (Lincs)	1598–1625
East Hendred (Berks)	31 Hen. VIII–40 Eliz.
Heskett and Hutton (? Cumberland)	1654–67
Pevensey (Sussex)	1676–1704
King's Norton (Worcester)	1675–1777
Northfleet (Kent)	1680–90
Penshurst (Kent)	1679–95
Plympton Grange (Devon)	39–40 Eliz.
Penhele (Flint)	23 Eliz.
Moorend and Potterspury (Northants)	1676–1705
Shelford (Cambs)	6 Hen. VI–Ph. & Mary
Wingham (Kent)	Jas. I
Stradbrooke (Suffolk)	Ch. I
Snayleswell (Cambs)	1–21 Ed. IV
Fordham Prior (Cambs)	19–20 Hen. VII
Wilbraham Parva (Cambs)	34–8 Hen. VIII 7–27 Eliz.
Honor of Wallingford (Berks)	27 Hen. VIII
York St. Marys	1706
Aylington (? Hants)	2 Eliz.–5 Jas. I
Snettisham (Norfolk)	41 Eliz.–6 Jas. I
Petham (Kent)	5–15 Jas. I
Stoke and Bradwinch (?) Devon	14–15 Eliz.
Wyrmegege (Norfolk)	8 Hen. VI
Liskeard (Cornwall)	Ph. & Mary
Barnet (? Herts)	Ed. VI
Moulton (? Northants)	? Eliz.
Clewer	Ed. VI–Mary–Jas. I, Ch. I
Hanbridge (Cheshire)	1734–47

Upledon (Gloucester)	29–33 Eliz.
Brockford Hull in Thwaite (Suffolk)	32 Hen. VIII
Clerkenwell (Middlesex)	Eliz.
Ampthill (Bedford)	Ch. II
Brandon (Suffolk)	Jas. I
Honor of Eye (Suffolk)	Ch. II
Boyton (?)	Hen. VIII
Emmerdale (Cumberland)	Ch. II
Pattrington (York)	Ch. II & Jas. II
Beverley (York)	1650–3
Hutton in Inglewood (Cumberland)	1660
Barnsley cum Dodsworth	Ch. II
Stredbrooke (Suffolk)	Ch. I
Boxsted Hall (Suffolk)	Eliz.
Grafton (*Rental*) (Northants)	1680
Gt. Oakley, Little Oakley, Beaumont, Moye, Lawford, etc. } Essex	1 Ed. VI
Holt, Wrexham, etc. (Denbigh)	Eliz.
Green's Norton Hund. (Northants)	Eliz.
South Benfleet, Harpenden, etc.	Hen. VIII
Geddinges and Langtons (Suffolk)	Ric. II
Eye (Suffolk)	Jas. I
Spaldwick (Hunts)	22–41 Eliz.
Marden (Hereford)	Ch. II
Dunstable	Ch. II
Holm Cultram (Cumberland)	Ch. II
Wells City (Somerset)	Eliz.
Croyland (Lincs)	Eliz.
Barron (? Lincs)	Ch. I
Moulton (Northants)	Ch. I
Enerdale (Cumberland)	Ch. II
Plympton, Buckfastleigh (Devon)	Jas. I
Dover Castle (Kent)	Hen. VI
Barony of Kendal	17th&18th cent.
Barony of Grafton	17th&18th cent.
Walpole (Norfolk)	1 Ed. VI–Jas. I

Gaywood (Norfolk)	Ed. VI
Fordington (?)	Eliz.
Ledbury	40 Eliz.–Jas. I
Cookham and Bray	17th–18th cent.
Westham (Essex)	Ric. III–1739
Somersham (?)	Ed. III, Ed. VI–Eliz.
Olford, Somerden, etc. (Kent)	18th cent.
Stradbrooke (Suffolk)	Hen. VIII–1635
Glemsford (Suffolk)	3–41 Ed. III
Grantham (Lincs)	1674-95
Holme Cultram (Cumberland)	Eliz.–1704
Reigate (Surrey)	1685-93
Eye (Suffolk)	Eliz. & various
Harthowel (?)	Ric. II
Collyweston (Northants)	Eliz.
Kings Langley (Herts)	Jas. I
Clerkenwell (Middlesex)	Hen. IV–Ch. II
Twysell (Northants)	Hen. VIII
Barton Barrow and Goxhill (Lincs)	1707–69
Burwell Ramseys (Cambs)	Eliz.–1770
Egham (Surrey)	1509–1803
Eltham (Kent)	1551–1781
Hampton Court (Middlesex)	1652–1800
Hitchin (Herts)	1597–1796
Portland (Dorset)	1670–1800
Richmond (Surrey)	1415–1792 1638–1774
Tower and Muchland (Lancs)	1666–1741
West Walton, Tilney, Walsoken, Emneth } Norfolk	1483–1770
Whaplode and Moulton	1565–1800
Windsor	1431–3
Wymondham	1445–1628
Books of Extracts from Court Rolls of Beverley	1661–1806
Bawderippe	Ed. VI–Hen. VIII

COURT ROLLS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

The following Court Rolls are in the Manuscript Department of the British Museum; those acquired before 1882 have been incorporated in the *Catalogue of Charters and Rolls* printed by the Trustees in 1901. In the following list they are arranged under their respective counties, and those acquired since 1882, classed among the Additional Rolls, have been in each case subjoined.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Arlesey (Arlechey)	1386
Cotton End (Cotes in Cardington)	1454–5
Everton	1418–19
Holwell (Great Holwell Manor)	1389
Knotting	1435, 1436
Willington	1463–70

Additional Rolls

Astwick	1373–98, 1487–1602
Cranfield, Shitlington, Barton in le Clay	Various dates from 13th–15th cent.

BERKSHIRE

Hampstead Marshall	1538–9
Letcombe	1402 (Uplecombe)
Shilton	1346, 1360, 1410, 1470
Sparsholt	1446
Woluerdeley	(Extract) 1508
Woolley in White Waltham	1378, 1381–2, 1384–7, (Extract?) 1508

BRECKNOCK

Brecknock	(Extract) 1632–59

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bledlow	18th cent.
Denham	(Extracts) 1438
Little Faringdon	1346, 1360, 1410, 1469, 1470
Iver	1766–7, 1769–70, 1773
Taplow	1599
Upton	1599
Waddesdon	(Extracts) 1515, 1595

Additional Roll

Fawley	1362–1455

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Bassingbourne Rectory	1457–8, etc.
Harston, Botellers Manor	1423, 1424, 1426–30

Additional Rolls

Benwick, Elsworth, Graveley, Chatteris, Knapwell, Girton, Burwell Over, Triplow	Various dates, 13th–15th cent.

CHESHIRE

Haslington	1570, 1612, 1649

CORNWALL

Sheviock	(Extract) 1528

Additional Rolls

Boskenvyt	15th & 16th cent.
Talgarruck	1531–2
Boswellick, St. Allen	1476–7
Cathayes, Grogarth, Cornelly Probus, Tresillan, Trelowtha, St. Erme	15th & 16th cent.
Truro, Clement St. Newham, Boswellick	1546–7
Restronguet, Mylor	1469–70

DENBIGHSHIRE

Is y coed in Holt	(Extract) 1460
Wrexham	(Extracts) 1520, 1530

DERBYSHIRE

Alderwasley (in Wirksworth) . . 16th & 17th cent.
Brassington (in Bradbourn) . . (Extract) 1640
Chesterfield (Cestrefeld, Chastrefeld, Chestrefeld) . . . . . (Extract) 1555
Dronfield . . . . . (Extract) 1439
Harston Matlock . . . . (Extract) 1538
Holmesfield in Dronfield (Extracts) various dates, 1417–1599
Hulland in Ashbourne . . . (Extract) 1522
Matlock . . . . . (Extracts) 1473
Scropton . . . . . (Extracts) 1508, 1509, 1617
Taddington 1452, 1458, 1460
Tansley 1444
Wessington in Crich . . . . (Extract) Hen. VIII
Wirksworth . . . . . (Extracts) 1428
Matlock . . . . . (Extracts) 1473, 1486, 1543

DEVON

Ashecombe 1610–13
Clist Gerard 1398–1411
Combe Wakewell (Thorneland) . 1586–7, 1591–2, 1609–14
Farway . . . (Extracts) various dates, 1501–1647
Holditch in Thorncombe . . . 1378
Leigh North 1536
Lew Trenchard 1589–90, 1609, 1614
Lydford . . . . . (Extract) 1564
Meeth . . 1568-9, 1584–5, 1590–1, 1591–2, 1609–14
Merton (Potheridge) 1609–14
Monycote 1408, 1410
Norden (Black Auton) . . . (Extract) 1567
Potheridge 1609, 1614
Rushford 1568–9, 1589, 1590–1, 1609–14
Seaton 1537
Sherford . . . (Extracts) various dates, 1472–1594
Sherford Court Rolls . . . Various dates, 1496–*1638*
Whitwell in Colyton . . . Various dates, *1533–75*

Additional Rolls

Sidmouth	1353–6, 1552–3
Topsham	13th–15th cent.

DORSETSHIRE

Boncombe	1439–47
Chardstock (Cherdestoke)	1596
Langton Wallis	(Extracts) 1519, 1528
Merton	1502–3
Moorbath	1433
Piddletown	1359–60, 1383, 1393, 1395, 1399, 1400, 1405, 1412, 1459
Stoke Wallis	1433
Wimborne Minster	1346, 1350, 1351
Extracts (Barnsley)	1550
Winterton Kingston	(Extracts) 1509, 1514
Woolmington	1502–3

ESSEX

Ashen (Claret Hall Manor)	(Extracts) 1581–2
Borley (Borley Hull Manor)	(Extract) 1510
Little Canfield-Childer	1400–45
Colchester (Shawe's Manor)	1701–16
Dovercourt	1400–12, 1590, 1703
Dunmow Great (Marks Manor)	1377–99, 1559, 1586, 1614, 1659
Finchingfield (Corners Hall Manor)	1502
Harwich	1612–16
Haydon (Bury Manor)	(Extracts) 1617, 1627
Ockendon South	1569
Ramsey (E. Newhall Ray and Michaelstowe)	1616, 1714
Thaxted	(Extract) 1630
Tilbury juxta Clare	(Extract) 1729
Waltham Forest	1589–92
Waltham Holy Cross, W. Abbey	(Extracts) 1480, 1527
Weald South	1569

Additional Rolls

Barking	13th–17th cent.
Brentwood	
Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Regis	
Chigwell and Writtle	
High Easter	
Rickling Hall	
Sible Hedingham, Bloys in	
Sible Hedingham, Grassals in	
Stapleford Tawney	
Tewes and Little Sampford	
Thaxted	
South Weald	

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Acton Turville	1374–97
Ashton under Hill	1543
Barrington	1505–6
Bitton (Oldlands in)	1344–98, 1602–3
Bitton	14th cent., 1603–4
Bitton (W. Hanham in)	1555–76
Bitton (Hanham Abbots)	1673, 1679
Dyeham	(Extract) 1545
Hazleton	(Extract) 1587
Henbury (Wick)	(Extract) 1536
Oxenton	Various dates, 16th cent.
Extracts	Various dates, 16th and 17th cent.
Pauntley	(Extract) 1472

Additional Rolls

Leckhampton	1691
Preston on Stour	Various dates, 15th–18th cent.
Saintsbury	18th cent.
Wishanger	1563–5

HAMPSHIRE

Ashay (Isle of Wight) . . . 1534–6
Bramchot . . . . . 17th cent.
Faccombe 1361–1653
Farnborough . . . . . (Extracts) 1612,1631
Froyle . . . . . Various dates, 1281–1657
Hartley Westpall . . . . (Extract) 1725
Mapledurham West 1625
Newport 1496
Sombourn King's Hundred 1498-9,1501–2,1512–13,1514–15
Swainstone (Isle of Wight) . . 1485–97

Hilliscote (county?) 1490–1

Additional Rolls

Alton . . . . Various dates, 14th–15th cent.
Alton Eastbrook and Alton Westbrook 15th–17th cent.
Bentworth and Barkham . . . 1563–1600
Carisbrook . . . . . 15th–17th cent.
Freshwater 1558
Godshill (Isle of Wight) . . . 1353–1652
Holybourne (Hundred Rolls) . . 1432–3
Lockerly 1493
Mapledurham . . . Various dates, 13th–17th cent.
Neatham 1613–14
Oakhanger (parish of Selborne) . 1672
Petersfield 1543, 1602–9
Sheet by Petersfield 1537-8
Thurstons (in Binsted) . . . 1706
Weston (in Buriton) 1537–9
Wroxall (Isle of Wight) . . . 1627–34

HEREFORDSHIRE

Caple King's . . . . . (Extract) 1547
Hereford . . . . . (Extracts) 1603, 1885–6
Preston upon Wye . . . . (Extract) 1653

Additional Rolls

Bishop's Frome	1405–1506
Bosbury, Colwall Coddington, Eastror Bishop's Palace, Shellarck (parish of Holmer), Hampton Bishop, Stretton Sugwas, Eaton Bishop, Tapsley Barton	1616
Hereford Palace Hallmote Rolls, including Ledbury, Bromgard, and Ross	1462–82
Wigmore	1451–2

HERTFORDSHIRE

Berkhampstead, Maudelins M.	1505
Buntingford	1392
Hemel Hempstead	(Extract) 1586
Hormead, Great and Little	Ed. IV, 1511
Meesdow	1508–9
Newland Squillers	(Extracts) 1582, 1612, 1650
Pirton	1370, 1372
Sawbridgeworth	(Extracts) 1493, 1538, 1539, 1559
Standon (Reunesley)	(Extract) 1417
Ware	(Extract) 1756
Watford (Wiggenhall)	1647, 1664
Westmill	1495, 1509, 1511
Woodhall	(Extract) 1563

Additional Rolls

Abbots Langley	1611–12
Ardeley	1630–1, 1635–8
Ayst St. Lawrence	16th & 17th cent.
Bishops Stortford	(Extracts) 17th & 18th cent.
Hatfield Bishops, Chewell, Symond's Hyde in	(Extracts) 14th cent.
King's Walden	(Extracts) various dates, 1291–1687
Park	(Extracts) 16th cent.
Standon	(Extract) 1499–1511
Therfield	14th & 15th cent.
Thorley Hall	1607–8
Weston	(Extracts) various dates, 1397–1685

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Glatton	1575, 1602
Hemingford Abbot	1311
Holme in Glatton	1575–1602
Molesworth	(Extracts) 1520
Normancross Hundred	1628–33
Orton Longville	1461–4
Ripton Abbots	1311

Additional Rolls

Gaines, Dillington, Perry in Great Staughton	1691–2
Hinchinbrook	15th cent.
Sawtry Southoe	1437–62
Upton Sawtry	1441
Spaldwick	1554
Stukeley	1353
Walton and Higley	1542–4
Ramsey Abbey Manors (Broughton, Kings Ripton, Little Stukeley, Warboys, Gidding, Upwood, Elton, Wistow, Abbots Ripton, Holywell, Slepe, Bythorn, Little Raveley, Ramery, Heytemundsgrove, Houghton, Wyton, Glatton Old Hurst, Woodhurst, The Grange of St. Ives, Bridge Street, Needingworth, etc.)	13th to 17th cent.

KENT

Beakesbourne	14th & 15th cent.
Brasted (Brasted Burgh, Brasted Upland)	1478–82
Chalk (W. Manor)	1418, 1489-90
Cranbrooke (Glassenbury)	1485–1502
Dunge Marsh (Dengemersh)	1484–5
Elham (Blodbeine)	1471–3
Hadlow (Hadlow and Lomwood Manors)	1478, 1482
Hadlow (Hadlow Place Manor)	1518, 1662, 1772
Hever	1515–16
Hoath Shelvingford	1405
Milton next Gravesend	(Extract) (Parrocks) 1391
Shamwell Hundred	1404
Strood	1507
Tonbridge	1478–82

Additional Rolls

Birchholt Stretchland in Birchholt Halk in Birchholt Brabourne Combe in Brabourne Heyton in Stanford	1500
Sore alias Hores in Wrotham	16th & 17th cent.

LANCASHIRE

Derby West	(Extract) 1529
Woolton Much	(Extracts) 1545, 1546

LEICESTERSHIRE

Belton	1479–80
Hallaton	1406–8, 1466, 1486
Ilston on the Hill, Creake Abby Manor	1336
Rothley	(Extracts) 1495
Sheepshed	1385–1626, 1478–9

Additional Rolls

Barwell	14th–17th cent.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Alford	15th cent.
Donington in Holland (Ouston Abby)	1357
Dunston	1322-4
Holbeach	1365
Saleby	1406-7
Spalding	1487-8
Stallingborough	1322
Sturton	1319-20, 1333-4

Additional Rolls

Gedney	1379-98
Holbeach	1603
Monksthorp	1581-8
Whaplode	1601

MIDDLESEX

Fulham	(Extracts) 1635, 1648
Hanwell	(Extracts) (Greenford cum Hanwell Manor) 1678, 1679, 1723, 1738
Mimms South	1475
Newington Stoke	(Extracts) 1490
Northolt	(Extracts) various dates, 1451–1700
St. Pancras	(Extract) (Cantelowe's) 1650

Additional Rolls

Tottenham	1279, 1317

MONMOUTHSHIRE

Hadnock	1345

NORFOLK

Barsham East	1573
Betheley	14th & 15th cent.
Bessingham	Hen. III or Ed. I
Boughton (Bukton)	1529
Bradeston	1423–61
Brandistone (Guton Hall in)	(Extracts) 17th cent.
Burston (Brockdish Hall in)	1315–1429, etc.

NORFOLK—*continued*

Cawston (Meys Manor) . . . 1343–5
Cawston (Manor) 1426, 1431
Dalling Field 1377, 1396, 1451
Diss . . (Extracts) (Heywood Hall Manor) 1552–1730
Ditchingham . . . . . (Extracts) 1443, 1639
Frenze . . . . . (Extract) 1703
Fulmodeston . . . . . (Extract) 1696
Haveringland . . . 1381, 1399, 1485, 1490, 1500
Extracts (Haveringland, Ulveston and Mountjoy Manors) . . } 1512, 1667, 1614, 1618
Extracts (Inglyshes Manors) . 1576, 1578
Hindringham and Astley and Nowers Manors . . . . . } 1310, 1722
Hockham Little . . . . (Extract) 1597
Horningtoft . . 1271, 1273, 1339, 1377, 1689, 1752
Kirby Bedon cum Whittingham . (Extract) 1629
Loddon . . . . (Extract) (Hubbys Manor) 1522
Extract (Inglose Manor) . . 1638
Morston in Holt Hundred . . . (Extracts) 1596, 1631
Newton West 1285, 1326, 1362
Poringland Great . . . . (Extract) 1659
Repps North 1581
Rollesby 1599–1601
Snettisham . . (Extract) (Ingoldsthorpe Hall) 1662
Strumpshaw 1307–50, 1384, 1493
Sutton . . . . . (Extract) (Outsoken) 1677
Swannington . . . . . (Extract) 1547
Tattersett 1497, 1547–68
Thursford 1416, 1422
Walsham North . . . . Ed. I–II
Wymondham . . . . . (Extract) 1629
(Grishagh) . . . . . (Extract) 1634

Additional Rolls

Gissing 1348–70
Gt. Cressingham . . . . 15th & 16th cent.
Walpole . . . . . 1511–46, etc.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Ashton (in Cleley Hundred)	1396–1405
Dingley	1482
Wardon Chipping West	(Extract) 1535
Weldon, Great with Little	(Extracts) 1491, 1511

Additional Rolls

Crick	16th & 17th cent.
Culworth } Sulgrave }	(Extract) 1488

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Sutton Bonnington	1395

OXFORDSHIRE

Bloxham (Beuchamps M. in)	(Extracts) 15th cent.
Brookend	1389–1499
Charlbury	1539
Ensham	1296
Milcombe	1451–7
Newlands Manor	1386–9, 1417–20
Norton Brize	1464–5
Rollright	1436
Shifford	1434
Woodstock Old	(Extract) 1674
Wootton Hordley	(Extract) 1674

Additional Rolls

Bampton	1624, 1629
Bampton Deanery } Henley-on-Thames. }	17th cent.
Yelford	1555

RADNORSHIRE

Cefn Llys (Keventleece)	1679

RUTLANDSHIRE

Oakham	1622
Preston with Uppingham	1735–6

SOMERSETSHIRE

Almsworthy	1461
Budgeworth	1602–4
Bagborough West	1458
Chedzoy (Chedesey)	1329–84, 1406–14, 1652–9, 1665 80
Clevedon	1321
Congresbury (Iwood)	1364–1461
Exford (Almsworthy Manor)	1461
Farringdon in Stoke Courcy	1375–7 (Ferndon)
Frome Selwood	(Extract) (Great Keyford) 1585
Harptree East	1386
Knowle in Long Sutton	(Extract) 1479–80
Pitney	1423, (Extracts) 1520
Porlock	(Extract) 1691
Priston	(Extract, roll of court baron) 1614
Weare	1603–4
Winsford	1542–3
Yatton	1364–1461

Additional Rolls

Aller	1632
Corston	1600
Merridge West Bagborough Cothelstone Cows Huish Babcary Woolstone Stony Stratton Prestleigh Durston St. Michael Church Stawell Bishop's Lydiard	1631–3
Pitney	1596–1609

STAFFORDSHIRE

Shenston 1594

Additional Rolls

Handsworth 1499-1500
Murchington . . . . . 17th cent.

SUFFOLK

Buxhall, Cockerell's Manor . . 1475, 1601, 1603, 1623
Clare (Honour of) 1410, 1427
Extracts . . 1501, 1587, (Additional) 1581, 1582
Cornard Great (Abbas Hall Manor) Various dates, 1559–1602
Extracts 1674–5, 1698, 1711
Cotton 1331
Drinkstone (Timperley's Manor) . (Extract) 1563
Eleigh Brent 1464–1501
Exning (Cottons Manor) . . . 1440
Framsden . . (Extracts) 1394, 1529, 1535, 1571, 1616
Gisleham 1429–30
Hasketon (Thorpe Manor) . . . 1457–9
Extract 1646
Helmingham . 1395, 1407, 1457, 1481, 1482, 1485, 1490
Bury Hall . . . 1400, 1406, 1410, 1412, 1481, 1490
Extract 1481
Henstead . . . . . 1429, (Extract) 1538
Hitcham . . . . . (Extract) 1652
Horham . . . . . (Extract) 1505
Hundon (Extracts) 1277, 1283, 1573, 1582, (Honyden) 1652
Kelsale . . . . . (Extract) 1742
Lavenham . . . . . (Extracts) 1497, 1608
Court Roll 1635, 1650, 1660, 1667
Melford Long, (Kentwell) . . . 1313
Extract (Milford Rectory Manor) 1670
Mendlesham . . (Extracts) 1530–1, 1539, 1548, 1629
Milding (Wells Hall) 1464, 1501
Extracts 1485, 1598

SUFFOLK—*continued*

Otley . . . . . (Extracts) 1483, 1553
Pakenham (Malkins Hall) . . . 1316, 1393, 1596, 1667
Extract 1559
Peasenhall 1588, 1592, 1599
Ringshall . . . . . (Extracts) 1545, 1553
Rushmere (Wykes Ufford) . . 1528
Snape 1391–1448, 1602, 1686–7
(Campsey Ash Priory) . . . 1405–48
(Tastards and Scotts) . . . 1487–1507
Extract (Becklinge, Pantletts and Rysinges) 1609
Soham Monk 1391, 1394
Stoke by Clare . . . . (Extracts) (Chilton) 1278, 1279, 1282–9, 1581–1638
(Clare) 1582, 1595, 1610, 1652
Stowlangloft . . . . Various dates, 1444–1624
Extract 1566
Thorndon . . . . . (Extract) 1706
Walpole . . . . . (Extracts) 1502
Walton . . (Extracts) 1439, 1560, 1580, 1598, 1648
Westleton . . . (Extracts) various dates, 1413–1602
Wetheringsett . . . . . (Extract) 1600
Witnesham . . . . . (Extract) 1631
Wyke Ufford 1428–9, 1528

Additional Rolls

Abbas Hall . . . . . 17th cent.
Aldborough . . . . . 16th & 17th cent.
Ampton 1363
Ash Bocking . . . . . 14th cent.
Beckling (in Snape) . . . . (Extract) 1609
Boulge . . . . . (Extract) 1646
Broome, Broom Hall . . . . 1608, 1686 (Extract)
Broome, Ling Hall . . . . 1656 (Extract)
Bungay . . . . . 1613 (Extract)
Chelsworth 1563–1600

SUFFOLK—*continued*

Dunwich	14th & 15th cent.
Fressingfield	16th cent.
Glemsford	16th cent.
Glevering in Hasketon	1584–1692
North Hales	15th cent.
Hasketon	1467–1593
Lawshall	1466
Laxfield	1584, 1614
Polstead	1276–1537
Scotnetts with the Hough in Debenham	1649
Stradbroke	1601

SURREY

Addington	1314–17
Bandon (see Beddington)	(Extract) 1644
Beddington	1325, 1418
Bensham (see Croydon)	1296–1300
Chelsham (Chelesham, Watvyless)	1530
Claygate (Thames Ditton)	1539-93
Godalming Hundred	1483–4
Kingston on Thames	(Extracts) 1548, 1549 (Canonbury Manor)
Extract from Hundred Court	1549
Leatherhead (Pachevesham Manor)	1319–20
Mitcham (Ravensbury)	Various dates, 1488–1642
Mordon	1485, 1502, 1507–9
Norbury	(Extract) 1436
Wimbledon	(Extracts) 1633, 1640, 1650

Additional Roll

Godalming	1503–4

SUSSEX

Barnhall (or Bexhill)	16th cent.
Bishopshurst	(Extract) 15th-17th cent.
Bramber	1383
Filsham (Hastings)	1444–1533

SUSSEX—*continued*

Harting 1549, 1563
Horsham (Shortsfield) . . 1473, 1503, 1566, 1568
Offington in Broadwater . 1386–1553, (Extract) 1515
Robertsbridge . . . . . (Extract) 1699
Steyning (Charlton) 1473–1503
Washington . . . . . (Extracts) 1640
Woodmancote . . . . . 1341 (?)

Additional Rolls

Bishopstone with Littlington . . 1373–1670
Preston, Bishopstone, Selsey, Siddlesham, Drungwick 1562–75
Hastings, Rape of, with Shoyswell, Hawksborough, Baldslow, Guesting, etc. Hundred and Court Rolls 1387–1599
Herst and Wirlenton 1317-64
Hurstmonceaux, Gotham, Oldcourt 1484–5
Laughton 1336–1688
Little Broadwater 1392–1406
Mayfield, Bibleham in . . . 1388–1657
Burwash 1401–1656
Crowhurst 1432–71
Michelham Parkgate . . . 1670
Nutbourne in West Chiltington . . 1422
Rype 1481–1505, 1653–7
Shiplake (Hundred Rolls) . . . 1359–1577
Shiplake (Court Rolls) . . . 1380–1486
Warbleton, Bucksteep in . . . 1301–1413
Wartling . . . . . 1275–1421, etc.
Witting in Hollington . . . 1365
Woodhorn, Arlington Hundred and Court Rolls 1490–1526

WARWICKSHIRE

Atherston 1399
Kingswood . . . . . (Extract) 1645
Monkspath 1629–41
Shustoke 1447
Solihull . . . . . Various dates, 1408–1658
Tanworth . . . . . Various dates, 1562–1696

Additional Rolls

Alveston 1707
Whitchurch with Wimpstone, Grimescot and Broughton . . . . . Various dates, 16th–18th cent.

WILTSHIRE

Alvediston.
Berwick St. John 1558–9, 1567
Box 1390–1419
Burcombe . . . . . 16th cent.
Castlecombe (Combe, Castelcombe, etc.) 1344–1633
Chalk (Hundred) 1283–4
Chalk (Bower) 1558–9, 1567
Chalk (Broad) 1558–9, 1567
Chilhampton 1559, 1567, 1584
Chilmark 1558–9, 1567, 1584
Dinton (Donington) 1558–9, 1567, 1584
Ditchampton 1559, 1567, 1584
Eastcot near Urchfont (Lord Hertford) 1546–8
Elstub Hundred . . . . . 14th & 15th cent.
Enford . . . 14th and 15th cent. (Extracts) 1603
Fonthill Giffard (Fountel, Fontel) . 1381–2
Hilcot near Newington 1558–9, 1566–7
Inglesham 1346, 1410, 1470
Kington St. Michael, Nettleton Manor 1536, 1541
Kinwardstone Hundred . . . 1559
Nettleton . . . (Extracts) various dates, 1528–85
Court Rolls 1561–94, 1578, 1583, 1591, 1592, 1652, 1685
Newington North (Hilcot) . . 1558–9, 1566–7

WILTSHIRE—*continued*

Newton South (Chilhampton) . . 1559, 1567, 1584
Patney 1558–9, 1566
Ramsbury 1559, 1566–7
Ridge in Chilmark 1558–9, 1567
Stockton . . 1332–1636, 1385–91, 1558–9, 1566, 1584
Urchfont 1546–8, 1588–9
Wedhampton 1500, 1517, 1546-8
Wilton . . . . . (Extract) 1533
Winterbourne Basset . . . 1559
Wishford Great . . . 1391, 1392, 1454, 1457
Wootton Basset (Fasterne) . . 1559, 1567, 1584

WORCESTERSHIRE

Bromsgrove 1473–5
Lickey in Bromsgrove . . . 1473–5
Netherton 1644
Norton King's 1473–5

Additional Roll

Alderminster 1630

YORKSHIRE

Aldborough in Stanwick St. John . 1441
Beverley 1637
Bowes 1441
Catterick 1441
Cudworth 1653
Firbeck 1596–1600
Forcett 1441
Howden . . . . . (Extract) 1721
Laughton en le Morthen . . . 1600–1
Leven 1416, 1417
Sheffield . . . . . 1564–5, (Extracts) 1650
Tickhill 1596–1601
Wakefield 1624
Welwick 1416, 1427, 1461, 1462

COURT ROLLS AT LAMBETH PALACE

The following Court Rolls are among the muniments at Lambeth Palace, which include a large collection of Ministers' Accounts and miscellaneous documents of great interest. The following list has been transcribed, with the permission of His Grace the Archbishop, from a MS. Calendar in the library, compiled a few years since by Messrs. Stuart Moore and R. E. G. Kirk, in which the references to the originals will be found.

CHRISTCHURCH, CANTERBURY

(HIGH COURT)

Court Roll **the Prior's Court** (title mutilated)	3 Ed. III
Court Roll **the Prior's Court** (Adesham, Gomersham, Shipway, Maidstone) .	33–9 Ed. III
Five similar rolls	35–47 Ed. III
Similar rolls (Godmersham, Eastry, Leven Hundred, Maydstane, Shipwey)	Various dates to 12 Ch. I
Court of the Belfry	2–32 Hen. VIII
Adesham [Kent] (Halkelyng, Langdon, Mungham, Staple Gore)	17 Hen. VI
Aldington [Kent] **Palstre** (Berwyk, Somerfeld, Stonested, Wylopp); **Birchholte** (Cotborgh, Herst, Southwod, Stanted, Stokkeborgh Lustynton); **St. Martin** (Wymersh, Doddyng, Southre, Ivechyrche, Heantry, Northborgh); **Langport** (Westbrook, Orwaldstone, Lyde, Worthe, Orgaryswyk, Estflete); **Aldyngton** (Northsture Superior and Inferior, Northre, Wylopp, Neuchyrche, Southre, the Weald, Lyde)	Hen. VI–Hen. VIII

Aldwick [Sussex] Crymsham, Nytymbre, Suthmondham, Shrippenge, Pageham, Boganore, Northberstede, Suthberstede; also Cherleton and other townships in some rolls . . Various dates, Hen. VI–Ph. & Mary

Antyngham [Norfolk] . . 2–3 Hen. V, 27 Hen. VIII

Ashewell [Herts] . . . . . 4 Ed. III

Axbridge [Somerset] Hallmote at Blakeford 2 Ric. II

Banwell [Somerset] Hallmotes at Banwell and Compton, Wynterstoh, Blakedon Harptre, Hutton, Weston, Worle, Loxton, Wynescombe, Churchehull, Axebridge [Sand]ford [Uppe]hull Various dates, Ed. III–7 Eliz.

Bempston [Somerset] Hundred of Bempsston (Wedmoore, Churchlond, Blakeford, Moore, Alstone, Alverton, Biddesham Weare), Court at Burneham . . . 20 Hen. VIII

Bexley [Kent] Bexley and Northfleet, Hundred of Toltyngtrowe (Gravesend, Milton, Goore, Thorne, Ifeld, Luddesdon); Views at **Clyve or Cleeve Fotyscrey, Halfcley Eard** and **West Preston** . . . 11–12 Hen. VII

Bouebeche [Kent] Views (Stanford Frenden) 2 Hen. V

Boughton [Kent] (Bocton Melstret, Staple, Gravene, Herefeld, Menham, Warstile, Setene, Nesshe, Waterhamme) . . Various dates, Hen. VI–Eliz.

Bourne and Kynghamford [Kent] (Byerton, Outhelmyston, Shelvyng Bourne, Breche, Berham) . . . . . 27 Hen. VI

Brevden [Worcester] Bishop of Worcester's Court (Norton, Herdwyk, Wenlond) . 8 Hen. IV

Culdecote [Kent] Prioress of St. Sepulchres, Parish of St. Martin without Canterbury, etc. . . . . 43 Ed. III

Culehelle Hundred [Kent] (Sandpette, Pluckele, Grenehelde, Staneford, Estlenham, Cherrynge, Sandbracche, Sedenore, Welle, Heyteslade, Chart, Edesle, Filthe, Holnherst, Acton, Hulyngherst Nasshe), and court at Cherringe Various dates, Hen. IV–Hen. VIII

Cherde [Somerset] (Kynemerescherde, Fordyngton, Old Cherde, South Cherde), and other places . . Various dates, 36 Ed. III–3 Ed. IV

Codsheath Hundred [Kent] (Sevenoke, Chevinyng, Cepham), and other places Hen. V–Hen. VIII

Fotyscley and Halfley.

Congresbury [Somerset] Hundred of **Congre and Yatton** (Clyre, Claverham, Keu, Wyke); Hundred at **Chyw** (Tymbresbergh, Clutton, Stawege, Norton, Hauteryl, Norton-Marleward, Sutton Militis, Sutton Episcopi, Knoll, Dondray, Northwyke, Luttelton, Stoke Abbatis, Ston, Northchyw); Hundred of **Hampton** and **Claverdon** (Charlecomb, Aumarle, Eston) 6 Ed. I, 2 Ric. II

Crayford [Kent] Views at **Crayford**, **Fotyscrey**, **Swanlegh**, **Preston**, and **Clyve** (Northfleet and Rectory) . . . . . 19 Hen. VI

Evercrich [Somerset] . . . . . 2 Ric. II–2 Hen. V

Falley Hundred [Hants] (Alresford, Marterworthy, Henton, Beworth, Westmeon, Exton, Cheriton, Twyford, Eston Morestede, Avyngton, Culmeston-Stokenett, Culmeston-Gymmyng, Wynhale or Whynall, Ovyngton, Chilcomb, Brixden, Havont) 1476, 1485, 1512–13

Farmanby [York] Court of Dean and Chapter of Windsor 1590

Gillingham [Kent] (the Weald, Bumpett, Okenfold, Lewyton, Bedmangore, **Boughton**, Graveney, Meneham, Wastyle, Staple Milstrete, Waterham, Narsh, Seeton, Harfyld, **Calehill**, Sandhatch, Highslade, Nassh, Well, Holyngherst, Stanford, Holnerst) . . . Various dates, Hen. IV–Ed. VI

Halvele [Kent] . . . . . 34 Hen. VI

Harrow [Middlesex] (Sudbury, Walda, Pynnsure, Wembeley, Roxheth, Alperton, Kenton and Preston) . 23 Hen. VII, 1 Hen. VIII

Hoveton [Norfolk] Hoveton St. Peters, Hoveton St. John's, Belhagh, Grishagh, Tungate, Tunsted, Wroxham, Ascham, etc. . . . . 4–5 Hen. V

Houghton [Norfolk] . . . . . 29–30 Hen. VIII

Huish [Somerset] Hundred Courts of **Huish, Kyngesbury, Cherde, Wylyngton, Wyvelescombe**, and **Lydegard** . . 17 Hen. VI & 3 Ed. IV

Ikcom [Iccomb, Gloucester?].

Anherdam, Almondesbury . . . 3-4 Hen. VII

Kingsbury . . . . . Ed. III & Hen. VI

Lavant [Sussex] (East Lavant, West Lavant, and other places) Various dates, Hen. VII & VIII

Lydeard [Somerset] Hundreds and Hallmotes . . . . Various dates, Ed. III–Ed. VI

Lyminge [Kent][1] . . . . . Hen. VI–Ed. IV

Maidstone [Kent] (Ditlyngge, Stone Westere, Wyke, Farleghe, Lyntone, Boxele, etc.) . . . Various dates, Ric. II–Hen. VIII

Malling or South Malling [Sussex] . . Ric. II–Hen. IV

[1] Matted together.

Monkton [Kent] (Byrchyngton, Wode, Denne, etc.) . . . Various dates, Ric. II-Hen. V

Newland [Kent] . . . . . 28–31 Ed. III

Northfleet [Kent] with other places . . Various dates, Ed. I–Hen. VII

Otford [Kent] (Schorham, Sondreshe, Cepham, Chyvinyng, Sevenoke, etc.) . . Various dates, Ric. II–Hen. VII

The Pallant [Sussex] . Various dates, Hen. VI–Hen. VIII

Ringmere [Sussex] Hundred of (Southram, Glynde, Wotton Stanmere, etc.) . . 8 Hen. IV

Slindon [Sussex] . . . . . Hen. VII & VIII

Somerden [Kent] Hundred of (Frenden, Cowden, Penshurste, Staunford, View at Shurbourne, etc.) . . . . . 3–4 Ph. & Mary

Southwark [Surrey] . . . 19 Hen. VII–3 Hen. VIII

Stonham [Sussex] (Southram Northlyngton, Ashton, Wellyngham, Middelham, Rammescombe) . . . . . 6 Ric. II

Street [Kent] . . . . . 2–32 Hen. VIII

Tangmere . . . . 16 Hen. VI–29 Hen. VIII

Tenham [Kent] (the Weald Levediston or Levyston, Okynfold, etc.) . . . Hen. VI & VII

Terring [Sussex] (Marlepost, Aldewyke, Slyndon, Kyrdeford) Various dates, Hen. VI–Hen. VIII
Also a Court Roll of Terring bound up with Cartæ Miscellaneæ, Vol. XIII, Pt. i, No. 5.

Thurgarton [Norfolk] . . . . 1–9 Hen. V

Tring [Herts] . . . . . 2–3 Hen. V

Uckfield [Sussex] (Mallyng, etc.) . . Various dates, Ric. II–Hen. VIII

Walsham [Norfolk] . . . . . 18 Hen. VI

Wedmore Burgus [Somerset] . . . 20 Hen. VIII

Wellington [Somerset] (Boclaunde, Hamme, Paytone, Forde, Wodesforde, Gerbardestone, Purye, "Ecclesia") . . Ed. I & III–Hen. V

Wells [Somerset] Hundred of (Lockinge, Robergh, Malerbe, Stokegiffard, Draycote, Overthething, Nethertething, Marchalthething, **Wells Forum**, Whitchurch, Eston, Evercrez, etc., **Halmote of Welles Manor** . . . Various dates, Hen. V–Hen. VIII

Westcliffe [Kent] Coulyng, Oystyrland, Hethe, Southwode . . . . 13–14 Hen. VI

Wingham [Kent] . . . . Ric. II & Hen. VII

Winsham [Somerset] . . . . . 34 Hen. VIII

Wivelescombe [Somerset] Hundred and Halmote Courts . . Various dates, Ric. II–Ed. VI

Wrotham [Kent] (Royheye, Stanstede, Eghtham, Hale, Nepaers, Wynefelde) . 23 Ric. II, 1 Hen. IV

The following Courts are arranged in groups :—

GROUP I. KENT

Eastry (Worthe, Crawthorne, Felderland).
Addysham (Moninge, Hawkynge, Staple, Langdon, Gore).
Ickham (Lee, Cottman, Well, Seton).
Monketon (Birchington, Woodchirche).
Seasalter (Upperborough, Netherborough).
Charte Magna (Buxford, Chelyngton) . } 1 Ed. VI

Charte Magna (Buxford, Chelmyngton, Swynford).
Appledore (Appledore Town, Appledore Hathe) . . . . . } 28–9 Eliz.

Fayrfelde (Mals, Flottham, Mistleham).

Mersham, Godmersham (Challocke, Shamelsforde, Rottenden, Hynxell, Doorne, Persted).

Culcott.

Monkton (Birchyngton, Woodchurche).

Eastry (Woorde, Crathorne, Felderland, Barnsoll, Geddyng).

Adsham (Addesham, Staple and Shattering, Silston Gore and Harndon, Hacklenge, South Langden and North Langden, Mongeham).

Ikeham. See Cottenham, Seaton.

Seasalter (Upperborough, Netherborough).

Holyngborne (Holyngborne Eyhorne, Bostonmownchelsey, Bredherste).

Copton (View only).

Chartham.

Brooke.

Ruckynge.

Meopham.

Leysdon . . . . . 28–9 Eliz.

Similar Roll with Loose (Wanses, Folsherst and Patendon) . . . . 35–6 Eliz.

GROUP II. KENT

Wingham, the Archbishop's Manor (North and South, South Eythorn, South Dean, South Rollyng, South Wymelyngesweld, South Godeniston, North Chilton, South Twitham, North Wentherton, North Overland, South Wingham) . . . 3–4 Hen. VIII

Courts with Hundreds at—

Wyngham and **Bisshopeston** (Rokkyngrove, Shotynton, Chelmynton, Westermouth, Easturmouth, Reculver, Beltynge, Bookysgate, Hothe, Haiugh, Thorneden, Hampton, Strode, Padelysden, Helberowgh, Vax, Gate).

Westgate (Russhebourne, Harwiche, Staplegate Hamlet, Harbaldown, Stoursete, Tonford, Cokerynte or Cokerynge).

Downebarton (Lollyngdowne, Sarre, All Saints, St. Nicholas).

Deal Prebend . . . . . 3–4 Hen. VIII

Wingham (as above).

Reculver (as above).

Westgate (as above).

Downbarton (as above).

Deal Prebend (as above) . . . . 27–8 Hen. VIII

Wyngham (Chylton, Overlond, Wanderton, Dean South, Twytham, Eythorne, Rollynge, Goodneston, Wimlingweld, "North," "South").

Bromffeld (Chillington, Shottington, Estermothe, Reculver, etc.), as above.

Westgate (as above).

Petham (Bere, Stronstret (Stonsted), Stepington, Cotreye or Conterey, Brodweye, Hanveld, Grandacre, Bisshopsden).

St. Nicholas, otherwise **Dounbarton** (St. Nicholas, All Saints, Sarr).

Deal Prebend.

Chystlet (Westbere, Westbeche, Hathe or Hatche, Croste, Ernesborow) 37–8 Hen. VIII

Norborne (Fingleshem, Sutton, Solden or Sholdon, Assheleye, Marton, Tykenherst)	37–8 Hen. VIII
Wyngham, **Bromfelde**, **Norborne**, **Petham**, **Downbarton**, Deal, Chyslet (as above)	1–2 Ed. VI
Reculver., **Westgate** and **Cheslett.**, **Shelmingforde.**, **Deal Prebend.**, **Combe.**, **Harkyng.**, **Ryver.**, **Pysyng**	3–4 Eliz.
Estreats of Courts as in preceding, with **Bexborne** and **Syberswell**	8–9 Eliz.
Westgate, borough of Westgate, Harbedown, Tunford, Harwich, Cockeringe, Hackyngton, Staplegat, etc., with **Sheperdeswolde**, **Pysynge**, **Ryvers** otherwise **Crabale** (Graybold), **Stotmer** (Sotmer), **Harkyng** otherwise **Flygs Court**, **Boughton** (boroughs of Nasshe, Milkstret, Mondham or Menham, Harvell, Wastell, Waterham, Graviney, Staple Seton)	20–1 Eliz.
Similar Roll	22–3 Eliz.
Similar Roll	24–5 Eliz.
Similar Roll, with Litleborne and Bekkesborne (damaged)	27–8 Eliz.

Littleborne **Deal Prebend** **Westgate** **Reculver**	44 Eliz.
Deal Prebend, Littleborne, etc. (in bad condition)	5 Jas. I
Similar Roll	13–14 Jas. I
Similar Roll (Shourt and Hundred of Downhamford under Littleborne)	15–16 Ch. I, 1639–40

GROUP III. SOMERSET

Hundreds and Halmotes at—	Ed. III
Lydyard Episcopi.	
Wyvelscombe.	
Welyngtone.	
Boclonde.	
Cherde.	
Kingesbury.	
Cherde Burgus.	
Wynsham.	
Hywysch.	
Evercriche.	
Cranemer.	
Welles Manor (Hornyngdon, Eston, Pridge, Bourcote, Cockesleigh).	
Wokey.	
Westbury.	
Blakeford.	
Cheddre.	
Banewell.	
Wyntersloke.	

Jattone.

Congresbury.

Chyw.

Pokelchurch (Westerleigh).

Hampton.

Clavertone.

Lydyard Episcopi (Assherberd, Asshepriour, Baggeburgh, Hull, Decenna Ecclesiæ, Cantock, Combe, Libera Decenna).

Wyvelscombe (Fyfhede).

Wyvelscombe (Crauford, Langele, Westwhitefeld, Fifhede, Ockhampton, Westrun, Dene, Estwhitefeld, Monynton).

Welynton (Boclonde, Hamme, Payton, Forde, Wodeforde, Gerbardestone, Purye, Decenna Ecclesiæ, Werdeforde).

Cherde (Kynemerscherde, Old Cherd, Fordington, Tateworth, South Cherde). Ed. III

Wynesham (Wynesham, Pertynton).

Kyngesbury (Westhambrok, Esthambrok, Lake Stenebrigge).

Welles Forum (Evercrich, Chestreblade, Cranemer, Whitechurch, Eston, Hornyngdon, Doultecote, Wormesterr, Dynre, Cockesleigh, Milten, Burcote, Yerdeleigh, Woky, Westbury, Pridie Wokyhole).

Aylbrugge.

Cheddre (Lockynge, Ronbergh, Malherbestethyng, Overtethyng, Nethertethyng, Marchalestethyng, Stoke-Giffard, Draycote).

Wynterstok (Blakeden, Harpetre, Hutton Weston, Worle, Loxton).

Jatton (Clyre, Wyke, Ken, Claverham).
Congresbury.
Chyw (Timberesburgh, Clutton, Staweye, Sutton Militis, Norton Hatevill, Sutton Episcopi, Knolle, Stone, North Chyw, Luttelton, North Wyk, Dundray, Norton Marleward, Stoke Militis, Stoke Abbatis).
Hampton and Claverton (Hampton Claverton, Cherlecombe Eston, Aumerle) . . } 16–17 Ed. III

Similar Roll . . . . . 27 Ed. III

Similar Roll, with Halmote at **Compton** and "Curia legal turni" at **Bath** (Stalles, Walcote-Stret, Bradstret, Soutarestret, Westgatestret, Westwholestret) (mutilated) . . . . . 35 Ed. III

Similar Roll (mutilated) . . . . 13 Ed. III

Similar Roll . . . . . 47 Ed. III

Similar Rolls . . . . . 6, 7, 8, 14, 18 Ric. II

Similar Roll . . . . . 9 Hen. V

Similar Rolls . . . . . 2, 10, 18 Hen. VI

Welyngton
Everscrich
Wyke
Welles Forum } . . . . . 5–6 Hen. VIII

Welles Manor (Burcotte, Eston, Prydy, Hornyngdon, Copesleigh).
Waky.
Westbury.
Cheddre.
Compton.
Worle.
Banewell. } 31 Hen. VIII

Yatton.
Congresbury.
Chew.
Pokylchurch.
Westerleigh.
Wyke.
Huyssh.
Kyngsbury.
Cherd.
Wellyngton.
Bucheland.
Wivelscombe (Fitzhedde).
Lydyerd . . . . . 31 Hen. VIII

Welles Manor (Burcote, etc.)
Banvill Manor (Worle, Churchhill, Wulfareshill, Banwell).
Westburie and Huishe . . . . 37–8 Eliz.

COURT ROLLS AT THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY

BEDFORDSHIRE

Higham Gobian (Stretely and Sherpenho) 29–30 Hen. VI

BUCKS

Stewkley Little . . . . . 11 Ed. III
Pittsdon . . . . . 9 Ric. II
Oving . . . . . 32 Ed. III

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Eversdon . . . . . 12, 17, 18 Hen. VII
Abbottesley . . . . . 18 Hen. VII
Swaffam Priory . . . . . 12–16 Hen. VIII

ESSEX

Bargeheys.
Ging-Joyberd-Laundry, *alias* Blunt's Manor . . . . . 4–5 Jas. I
Lexden, Hundred of . . . . . 23–37 Eliz.
Little Leigh (Lighes, Priory of) . 14 Ed. I–12 Ed. II
Neylond (mutilated) . . . . Hen. VIII
Neylond . . . . (Extracts) 44 Hen. III–9 Ed. II
Tiptree . . . . . Ed. III

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Stow . . . . . 31 Ed. III

HANTS

Swathlyng and Hertele (portion) . 10 Ric. II
Whitchurch, Evyngar, and Husseborne 1391, 1496, 1497

HEREFORDSHIRE

Savecomp . . . . . (Extract) 28 Hen. VI
Temple Chelsyn . . Various dates, 2 Ed. VI–20 Jas. I

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Hundred Roll (portion) . . . Ed. I

KENT

Thorney . . . Various dates, 5 Ed. III–16 Ed. IV
Thorney Leesons . . . . 1–7 Hen. VII

MIDDLESEX

Hackney . . . . . 14 Ch. II

NORFOLK

Cantley . . . . . 15 Ch. II
Cawston . . . . (Extracts) 27 Eliz., 8 Ch. I
Freethorpe . . 28 Eliz. and extracts of various dates
Henham . . . . . (Extract) 42 Eliz.
Tryngton (fragment) . . . . 26 Hen. VI
Beckham . . . . . 37 Ed. III
Burnham Overey, Crabbe Hall and Lathes 1629–31

NORFOLK—*continued*

Erpingham North, Hundred of (Cromer, Suffield, Gresham, Thurgarton, Alborowe Bassingham) . . .	1634–5
Erpingham South, Hundred of (Ingworth and Colby, Booton, Scottowe with Swanton Abbott, Lammas and Little Hobbys, Tuttington and Banningham, Hevingham and Stratton, Skeyton, Erpingham, Albye and Tweyte, Oulton, Saxthorpe, Ermyngland and Corpustye) . . .	1633–5
Thornage	21–2 Ed. III
Walsham South and Rothyng .	8 Hen. VIII–Ph. & Mary
Scotowe	18–22 Ric. II

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Everdon	17 Ed. III
Dodford Lanaport (? Lamport)	31 Ed. III

OXFORDSHIRE

Ewelme, Honor of	31–2 Eliz.
Blackbourton, Benney, Lew, Weld, Russhey and Claufield (mutilated) .	31–2 Ed. III
Cowley, Sandford and Bruggesete (mutilated)	31–2 Ed. III
Hampton Gay and Weston (mutilated)	31 Ed. III
Hooknorton (fragment) . . .	*temp.* Ed. III
Mixbury and Newenton . . .	14–15, 31 Ed. III
Watton, Worton and Twentyacres .	31–2 Ed. III
Tew, Sibford, Ipwell Sedwell, Sandford, Middle Barton and Dunstew . .	31 Ed. III
Little Tew and Hooknorton . .	32 Ed. III
Watereton, Cuderlowe, Kidlington and Hanborough	31–2 Ed. III
Weston (mutilated)	*temp.* Ed. II
Alrington, Bibury, Burton, Hanborough, Weston, Little Tew, Sibford, Gower, Hokenorton and Turkeden . .	5 Hen. VII

OXFORDSHIRE—*continued*

Barton	7 Ed. III
Claydon (Steeple), Maids Norton and Stow (mutilated)	6 Hen. VII
Cowley and Walton	2–28 Ed. III
Cowley, Sandford, Oxford (Castle mill) and Walton	6 Hen. VII
Forest Hill, Oseney and Cowley	17 Hen. VII
Forest Hill (mutilated)	4–5 Ed. III, 30 Hen. VI
Hampton-Gay, Hampton at the bridge, Blechington, Weston, Arncot and Chesterton	33 Ed. III
Ledwell (mutilated)	33–4 Ed. III
Mixbury and Newenton	33–4 Ed. III
Mixbury and adjoining places	17 Hen. VII
Sibford, Gower, Turkden, etc.	19 Ed. IV
Teu (Little), Great Barton, Barton Odo, Sandford, Rowsham, Dunstew, Sibford, Hooknorton and Adderbury	14–15 Ed. III
Tew (Little), Sybford with Apwell, Hooknorton, Turkden, Alrington, Bibury, Weston, Ardley and Chesterton, Watereton and Ledwell	15 Hen. VII
Ampton, Foresthill, Pery, Thomele, Ledhale, Dracot	34 Ed. III
Walton, Worton, Twenty Acre, Cowley-Sandford and Bruggesete	14 Ed. III
Watereton, Ledwell cum Little Tew, Sibford cum Ipwell, Hokenorton and Turkeden	9 Hen. VII
Watlington	13 Ed. III
Weston	5 Hen. VI
Weston, Arncot, Ardly, Chesterton and Hampton Gay	14 & 15 Ed. III
Weston, Waterton, Sandford with Ledwell, Little Tew, Sibthorpe, Gower and Hooknorton	*temp.* Hen. VII

SOMERSETSHIRE

Aller and Allermore	31–3 Eliz.
Aller and Othe	18–19 Eliz.
Hanwell and Compton	23 Hen. VI
Winterstoke, Hundred of	*temp.* Ed. III

SUFFOLK

Mutford	(Extract) 1628
Peyton Hall	(Extract) 13 Ric. II
Barton, Little	1 Ed. IV–14 Hen. VII
Creeting St. Olave	25 Ed. III
Fledehall with Waltham in Stoneham	1 Ed. 6–13 Eliz.
Kessingland	6–23 Ric. II
Mildenhall	1706
Newton	13, 16, 18 Ric. II
Waldingfield, Great	*temp.* Ed. III & Ric. II
Wickham	4 Ed. III
Wratting	15 Ed. I

SUSSEX

Stoneham (Southeram, Norlington, Wellingham, Middeham Ashton)	30–9 Hen. VI

WARWICKSHIRE

Rowington	38 Eliz.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Pirton Foliot	28, 36 Hen. VIII, 27, 34 Eliz.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Hungerton	20 Ed. I

APPENDIX II

MANOR COURTS WITH TESTAMENTARY JURISDICTION

THE DATES OF THE EARLIEST WILLS AND THEIR PRESENT PLACE OF DEPOSIT ARE GIVEN

1718	Alvechurch, Court of the Rector . .	Worcester
1594	Askham Bryan Manor Court. No wills proved after 1799	York
1773	Baddesley Clinton Manor Court . .	Birmingham
1682	Balsall Temple Manor Court . .	Birmingham
1632	Barnoldswick. Last will proved 1804	Wakefield
1671	Barston Manor Court	Birmingham
1562–1768	Beeford Manor Court. Wills and inventories the only entries on these Court Rolls	York
1717	Bredon, Court of the Rector . .	Worcester
1678	Burton on Trent Manor Court (with Stretton, Horninglow, Shobnall, Wetmore, Branson and Windshill)	Lichfield
1746	Cold Kirby Manor Court . . .	Unknown
1610	Crossley, Bingley and Pudsey, called the Court of St. John of Jerusalem .	Wakefield
1753	Dale Abbey	Derby
1658	Ellesmere	Shrewsbury
	Colemere.	
	Hampton and Town and Liberty of Ellesmere.	
1581	Evington	Leicester

1641	Gnossall, Pecutuar and Manor Court	Lichfield
1739	Gringley on the Hill with Misterton, West Stockwith and Walkeringham. Index from 1739–1855, and is called Bawtry Manor Court, or Gringley on the Hill	Nottingham
1615	Halton. List 1615–1792, vol. xxiii. Lancaster Record Society. No wills after 1815.	
1607	Hunsingore	Somerset House
	Nether Kellet (Return of Eccles. Courts for 1830. T. B. Cole, Lord of Manor)	Unknown
1752	Kirkstead with Mearbooth, Tattershall, Tattershall Thorpe, Kirkby on Balne and Woodhall. No wills after 1799	Unknown
1640	Knaresborough[1]	Somerset House
1726	Knowle	Birmingham
	Lineal (? included in Ellesmere) . .	Shrewsbury
1776	Longdon upon Terne	Shrewsbury
1640	Mansfield (with Mansfield, Woodhouse, Sutton on Ashfield, Hucknall under Huthwaite, part of Warsop, Budley in the parish of Edwinstowe, Kilton and Scofton in parish of Worksop, and other places in neighbourhood)	Nottingham
1654	Marsden in parish of Almondbury and Huddersfield	Wakefield
1770	Merivale parish and manor . .	Lichfield
1682	Newton with Beningboro. No wills after 1813	York
1759	Packwood	Birmingham
1690	Ravenstonedale	Carlisle
1627	Rothley with chapelries and Somerby, South Croxton, Mountsorrel, Barsby Bill, and Saxelby	Leicester
1579	Shipton with Overton	York
1732	Sibford with Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris and Birdrup, part of parish of Swalecliffe	Somerset House

[1] Wills enrolled on the Court Rolls at Knaresborough from 2 Hen. VIII.

1767	Silsden	Wakefield
1651	Skerton. No wills after 1691 . .	Unknown
	Slyne with Hest	Unknown
1612	Temple Newsam	Wakefield
1580	Temple Sowerby	Carlisle
1684	Tyrley (in Drayton in Hales) . .	Shrewsbury
	Westerdale	Unknown

DEEDS OF MANUMISSION AND GRANT OF A VILLAIN Temp. Edward III

The following are translations of the deeds of which facsimiles are given in the plate facing page 17.

DEED OF MANUMISSION [1]

Let all present and to come know that I, Sir John de Loutham Knight, have manumitted Thomas Agasson Underthehull of Bildisthorpe my native, with all his goods and chattels acquired now and to be acquired in future, and have freed him from every burden of serfdom. From which serfdom the aforesaid Thomas, with all his goods as is aforesaid, I have freed and have made him a freeman. So that the aforesaid Thomas, with all his goods and chattels aforesaid, shall be free, and shall enjoy full right and liberty for ever by these presents. In witness whereof to these present letters I have set my seal. These being witnesses: Sir John de Loutham, Knt, my son, Thomas de Mutton, John Bate de Thawtwaitt, senior, Nicholas de Bauquell, and others.

Given at Walton by Chasterfield, the 21st day of May, the 44th year of the reign of King Edward the 3rd after the conquest.

[1] Ancient Deeds, A4625.

DEED OF GRANT[1]

Know all of you who this letter shall see or hear, that I, Elys de Verdoun, have given and granted and by this present letter confirm to Rouland Daneys and to his heirs and assigns, John atte Grene and Robert atte Grene my neifs of Fornewerk, with all their issue and goods and chattels. To have and to hold to the said Rouland and to his heirs and assigns, as is aforesaid, the aforesaid John and William [*sic*] and their issue and goods and chattels and whatsoever to them belongs. And the aforesaid Elys to the aforesaid Rouland, in the form aforesaid, against all men will warrant and defend for ever. In witness whereof to this present letter I have put my seal. Given at Fornewerk, the day of St Martin the 25th year of the reign of our lord the King Edward the 3rd after the conquest. These being witnesses: Sir Edmund de Apelby, Sir Averey de Solfuene, Robert de Sallone, William Daunswers, John Fraunceys, Hugh de Mouskam, and others.

PLAN OF BURTON AGNES

The plan of the Manor of Burton Agnes (p. 49) was used by the late Canon Taylor to illustrate a very interesting paper on "Domesday Survivals," contributed to the *Contemporary Review* for December, 1886. Although we may not be able to follow the learned Canon in all his conclusions, his remarks display such a wonderful amount of practical observation that they are well worth the attention of the student of mediæval agriculture.

After observing that "there are several townships in the East Riding in which the ancient glebe can be

[1] Ancient Deeds, A8005.

actually shown to have consisted, not only of an exact tenth of the whole Domesday arable, but of every tenth strip in the open fields," he proceeds :—

"The map of the township of Burton Agnes indicates that the old glebe consisted of eighteen strips in the three fields, say twelve in the two fields which were in tillage at the same time. According to Domesday Book there were twelve carucates of arable, and therefore the parson had one strip out of each carucate ; his tenth acre as the plough traversed it, according to the laws of Ethelred. But the glebe strips are somewhat narrower than the others, because the others are eighths each representing one oxgang, the work of one ox in the eight-ox plough, while the parson had not an eighth but a tenth in each ploughland. The actual measure of the arable is 999 a. 0 r. 18 p., of which one-tenth would be 99 a. 3 r. 20 p., whereas the eighteen strips of glebe only amount to 98 a. 2 r. 20 p., falling short of the theoretical tenth by one and a quarter acres. This is accounted for by encroachments which are visible on the map. Some of the parson's neighbours do not seem to have ploughed quite fairly, thus gradually shaving off a part of some of the parson's strips."

The Canon then points out other features of interest in the plan, such as the messuages of the villains, with their tofts and crofts.

"South of the main road was the moor, formerly open pasture for the cattle of the community, but long since apportioned in 'deals' or shares among the holders of oxgangs in the arable field, one oxgate of moor, the pasture for one ox, going with each oxgang of arable, which represented the labour of the ox. North of the road is the 'terra' or common arable, divided into three fields, East Field, Middle Field, and West Field, which were tilled in

rotation; one field being ploughed in winter, another in Lent, while the third was left in fallow. The strips of tillage are divided by turf balks. They do not, as in many parishes, consist of acre strips, but are half oxgangs of about seven and a half acres, two strips, one in each of the two fields, tilled in any one year, constituting an oxgang. Some of the strips have been consolidated, probably by exchange. The glebe strips are distinguished by cross-hatching, and the oxgangs, over which there was right of dower, are stippled. The hall of the lord stands where it stood before the Conquest; but he seems to have enclosed his demesne land out of the common fields, whose ancient limits, however, are indicated by surviving rights of way. The map represents Burton Agnes as it was before the enclosure, which took place about thirty years ago" (*i.e. circa* 1850).

The following extracts will serve as a supplement to the passages in the text treating of the old English system of husbandry.

"Even when the land has been long enclosed and divided into separate holdings, it is instructive to ride across the country and observe how indelibly impressed on the soil by the ancient plough are the marks of those very divisions of the land which were recorded in the Domesday Survey. Frequently the exact boundaries of the Domesday carucates and bovates can be traced. The ancient arable, consisting as a rule of the best land, because land was plentiful, has commonly long since gone back to valuable pasture; inferior soils, which were formerly unreclaimed, being now taken into tillage. Hence the land still lies visibly in 'run-rig,' the great rigs, lands or selions, usually a furlong in length and either a perch or two perches in breadth, remaining as they were left by the Domesday co-operative plough, often higher by two feet or more in the ridge than in

the furrow, while here and there at regular intervals may be discerned the traces of the flat unploughed balks, two furrows broad, left in turf to separate and give access to the strips held by the several tenants of the manor. Even where the old arable still remains in tillage, it is not impossible as harvest time approaches to detect by the varying colours of the ripening corn the lines of the selions of the Domesday plough, now levelled by cross-ploughing, but still traceable owing to the fact of the corn growing more luxuriantly, and ripening more slowly in the deeper and richer soil which has filled the depressions between the ancient selions. . . . And as we gaze on these actual acres, roods, and furlongs, we notice that they are seldom straight such as are delved by the modern two-horse plough, but, as is shown by the hedges which scrupulously follow the lines of the turf balks which separated the oxgangs of different owners, they lie in great sweeping curves shaped usually like a capital T or capital S reversed, the long narrow fields of the present farms thus perpetuating the graceful curves of the acres—curves which can only be due to the twist of the great eight-ox plough, as the leading oxen were pulled round in preparation for the turn as they approached the end of the furlong by the villain at the near side of the leading ox."

EXTRACTS FROM THE COURT ROLLS OF WARWICK COLLEGE

The following are translations of the extracts from a bundle of Court Rolls of Warwick College, preserved at the Public Record Office, which are given in facsimile plate. The ancestry of William Shakespere cannot be traced with certainty beyond his grandfather, Richard, whose name appears in these Rolls as a suitor for Snitterfield, a small village a

few miles from Stratford-on-Avon, where we find him holding property from the Dean and Chapter of Warwick College *temp.* Henry VIII. In one of these extracts it will be observed that his name is entered as Richard Shakstaff, the question arising whether this was a variant used by the family at this period.

WARWICK COLLEGE

View[1] of frankpledge with court of the Dean and Chapter of the College of blessed Mary of Warwick held there the Thursday next after Hokday the 20th year of the reign of Henry the 8th.

Essoins

Thomas Smyth Henry Baller

There is placed in the tithing
[blank]

Twelve Jurors

to wit	Thomas Torre		John Whyrett	
	Thomas Eborall	sworn	Richard Plomer	sworn
	Henry Rogers		William Banbury	
	Lewis Smart		John Gryffyth	
	Edmund Godfrey			
[Richard][2]	Thomas Wylkyns	sworn	Henry Ratham	sworn
	Edward Malyn		Ralph Twycrosse	
	John Meydes			

MILVERTON

Richard Marell does not come, therefore in mercy.

SNYTTERFELD

John Palmer tithing man there sworn presents that Richard Shakkespere owes suit of Court and makes default. Also it is ordained that the tenants there make their hedges within the feast of the Ascension of our Lord next ensuing under pain for each delinquent xij^{d}.

[1] Court Rolls, 207, 88. [2] Erased.

[Court held the Thursday after the feast of St Michael 25 Hen. viij.]

SNYTTERFELD

John Palmer tithing man there sworn presents upon his oath that William Meyhoo, Richard Shakstaff and Robert Ardern owe suit of Court and have made default. Therefore they are in mercy. Also they present that Robert Ardern hath his hedges ruinous lying between his land and the land of John Palmer. Therefore it is commanded him to make and amend them within the feast of St Luke the evangelist next ensuing under pain xx^{d}.

CERTAIN ELLIPTICAL PHRASES USED IN COURT ROLLS

Essoñ = Essones : excuses for not appearing.

bř ⁊ fř assiš = brasiaverunt ⁊ fregerunt assisam : they have brewed and broken the assize.

ĭo in m̃ia dn̄i = ideo in misericordia domini : therefore in the mercy of the lord.

p̱ plto deb = pro placito debiti : for a plea of debt.

p̱ plto tr̃s = pro placito transgressionis : for a plea of trespass.

nō veñ = non venit : he has not come.

p̱ plm = per plegium : by pledge or surety.

h̄ diem = habeat diem : he may have a day.

pr̃ ē ballo = preceptum est ballivo : it is commanded the bailiff ; or señ = senescallo, the steward.

ps̃ ē = presentatum est : it is presented.

Inq̄ ad inq̄ = Inquisitio ad inquirendum : inquisition to inquire.

pet̃ iudiã = petit judicium : he asks for judgment.

ꝑueñ de ex̃ur = proveniens de extrahuris: forthcoming of extrays.

px̃ ꝑt fm̃ = proxime post festum: next after the feast.

ꝑ baťia = pro bateria: for battery.

leũ hut = leuavit huteum: he raised the hue.

at̃t. ē = attachiatus est: he was attached.

ad da^{m} suū = ad dampnum suum: to his damage.

po. lo. suo = ponit loco suo: he puts in his place.

ꝑ lic̃ conc̃ = pro licentia concordandi: for licence to agree.

fec̃ fiñ = fecit finem: he has made a fine.

fec̃ def = fecit defaltam: he has made default.

vꝰb ⁊ vulñ = verberavit ⁊ vulneravit: he has beaten and wounded.

q̃ or quer̃ = querens: complainant; or q̃ = queritur, he complains.

vꝰs = versus: against.

jur̃ = jurati = being sworn.

Aff = afferatores: the officers assessing fines.

ad t̃ ꝑđ = ad terminos predictos: at the terms aforesaid.

poit̃ in decenñ = positus in decenna: placed in the tithing.

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